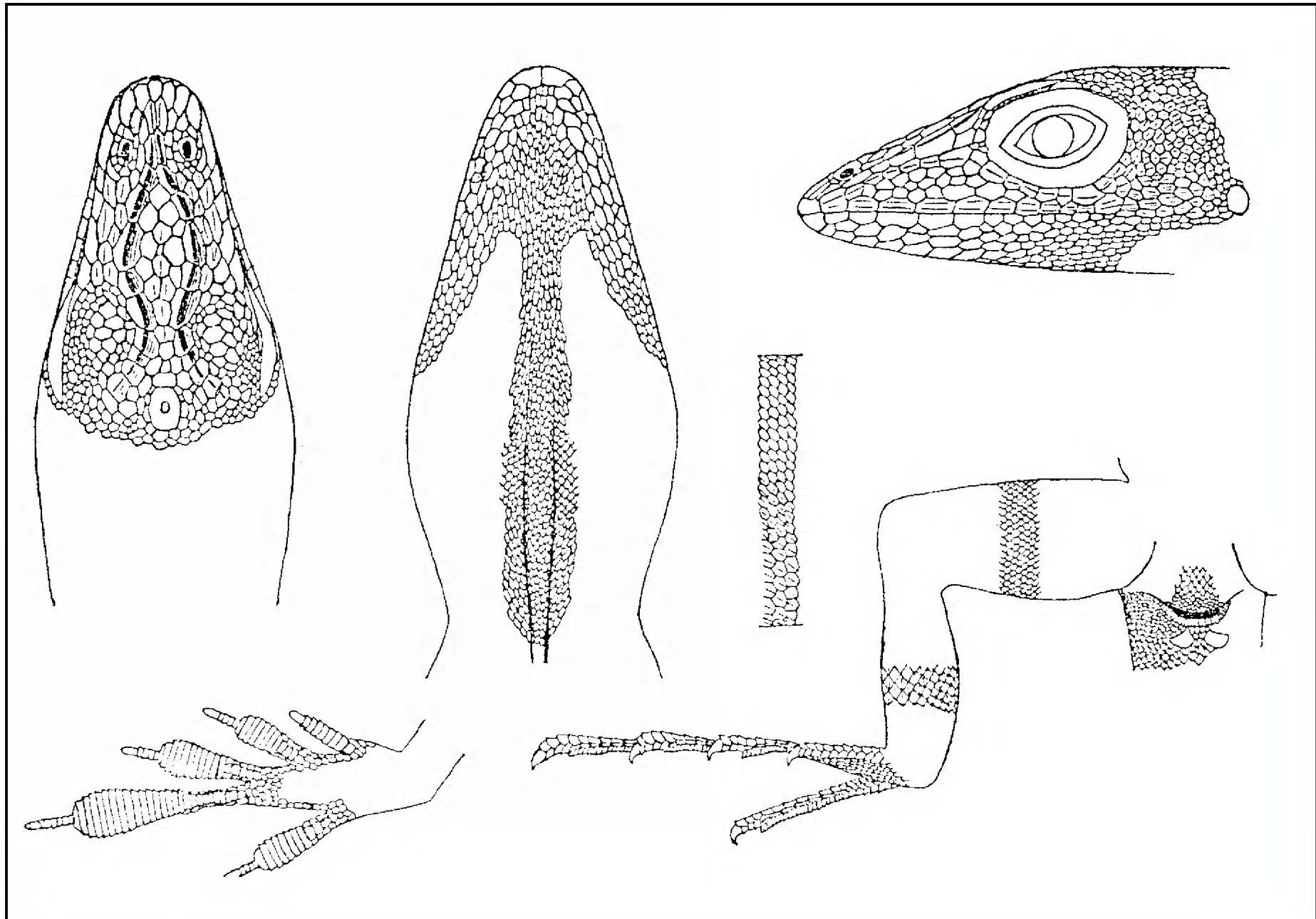

BULLETIN

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Chicago Herpetological Society



Volume 30, Number 5
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BULLETIN OF THE CHICAGO HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Follow-up: Third-generation Green Anoles, *Anolis carolinensis*

Kathy Bricker
4914 Flint Drive
Bethesda, MD 20816

The January 1994 *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society* [29(1):1-4] carried an article on my experiences raising two sibling green anoles (American chameleons) that hatched during the summer of 1992.

In late March 1994 the 20-month-old male and female, offspring of anoles purchased from a Philadelphia pet shop, began copulating. Although active courtship, dewlap display and pushup behavior were never obvious, perhaps because there were no competing males, actual mating was observed four times from 23 March to 31 July.

In mid June the first egg, quite desiccated, was discovered and removed to a small container of moist sphagnum moss. It never hatched. With increased misting and watering of the cage plants, from early July through 7 October nine hatchling anoles appeared, although no more eggs were found (I never did figure out where the female hid them). The first neonate, only seen once by an anole-sitter, completely disappeared (eaten?); the remaining hatchlings were separated from the adults immediately upon discovery (see Table 1).

These eight young were housed initially in glass one-gallon jars with paper towels and sprigs of cedar greenery. They all survived their early life much more easily than their parents. With less time to spend this summer, I skipped the most time-consuming procedures of removing them from their cages for every feeding and individually presenting each fruit fly. Sometimes I did transfer the neonates to a plastic dishpan for feeding, especially when they were just a few days old. But usually I simply introduced a dozen or so fruit flies or wild-caught and maimed small leafhoppers or pinhead crickets into their cages. I observed long enough to make sure the anoles were finding and capturing the prey, which happened with gusto after a few days.

The cages were kept at ambient summer temperatures, with twice-daily misting. A 14-hour light regime was provided with Vita-lites (from Durotest Corporation) on top of the cages. This source of ultraviolet light has been found valuable

for vitamin D synthesis, calcium metabolism, healthy appetite, activity and stronger bones. All the hatchlings basked, to varying degrees.

Anole cages were thoroughly cleaned once a week. Every day I added fresh dabs of peach baby food or mashed bananas. This food often was licked immediately and vigorously by some of the anoles. While I kept no careful, quantitative records of feeding, basking, growth or other behavior, I did notice distinctive differences between individual creatures, as their parents had demonstrated as well.

Whenever anoles began chasing or displaying dewlaps at each other, signs of aggression between males, I separated the individuals involved, ultimately keeping five separate aquaria for the eight hatchlings. Occasionally in transferring between cages I handled the anoles briefly, with no obvious ill effect. On 16 September however, one escaped while a lid was off. At the time it hid, but three days later it made a mad dash across the open living room floor, was captured and reunited with its siblings, and survived in apparent good health.

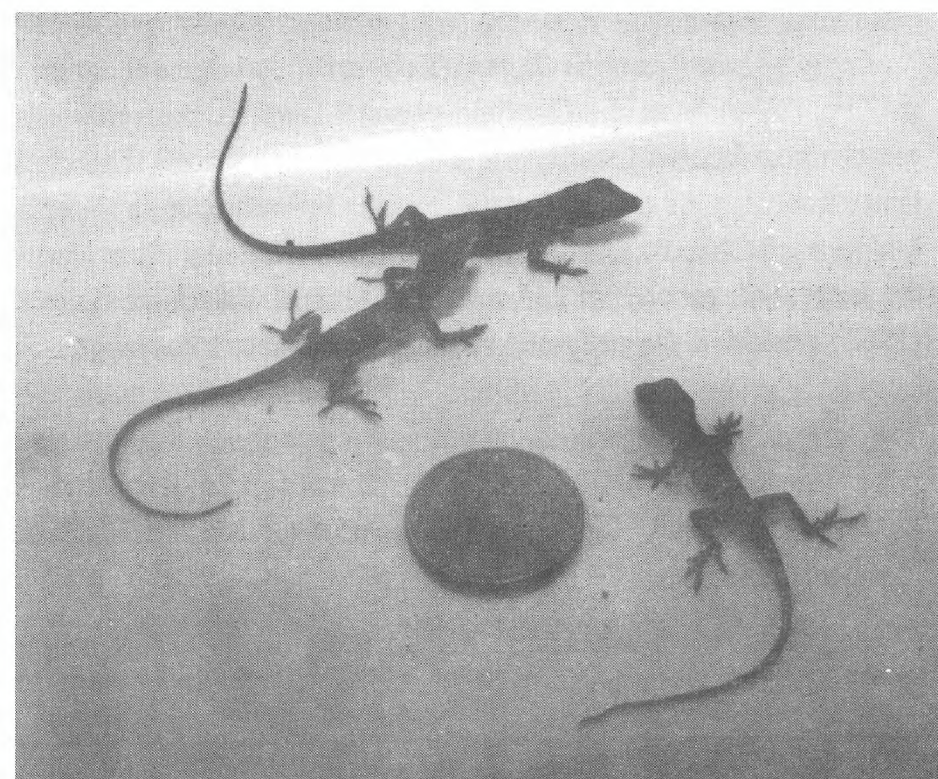
After several weeks, all hatchlings readily switched to eating wild-caught adolescent crickets, and were robust at least until 30 October. Unable to provide sufficient housing and care or to find responsible caretakers, at this time I released the adolescent anoles and their parents to a diverse, cat-free habitat in a suburban neighborhood in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank anole-grandmother Frances Velay, master cricket-catcher and anole-feeder Jim Bricker, anole-sitters Roger McManus, Dinah Bear, Jack Sobel and Karen Ziffer, and anole-smuggler and liberator Bruce Ryan, for all their help this time around.

Table 1. Dates of discovery and intervals between discoveries of neonates in the adults' cage.

5 July 1994	first neonate discovered
16 July 1994	11 days
21 July 1994	5 days
31 July 1994	10 days
9 August 1994	9 days
15 August 1994	6 days
19 August 1994	4 days
4 September 1994	16 days
7 October 1994	33 days



Three neonate anoles, with penny for size comparison. Photograph by author.

Some Noteworthy Amphibians and Reptiles from the Region of Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico

H. William Peterson¹, Hobart M. Smith² and David Chiszar³

In June 1992 and July 1994, HWP spent one week on each occasion as a guest of Arthur J. Canfield III at his villa in Chula Vista, Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico. During those times, small collections of amphibians and reptiles were made nearby for the Museo de Zoología, Facultad de Ciencias (MZFC), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), in collaboration with Dr. Oscar Flores Villela of that institution. Twelve taxa are represented by the specimens collected, of which six are of special interest and are reported here. All specimens taken are cataloged in MZFC, whose numbers are cited for the species here dealt with.

Eleutherodactylus occidentalis Taylor. A single specimen (MZFC 6830) was taken 18 July on a road at night after a rainstorm, 8 km E Chapala. Although several records exist for areas west of Guadalajara, to both the north and the south, the locality here cited appears to be the easternmost known in Jalisco for the species.

Hyla eximia Baird. A single specimen (MZFC 6829) was taken at the same time and approximate place as the preceding. The locality represented is not unusual; Duellman (1970: 506, 703) cited numerous specimens from near Chapala. It is the unusual color and pattern that is of special interest: there is only a slight greenish tinge in the light tan dorsal coloration; the limbs are unmarked; the dark postocular bar ends at axilla; the naso-ocular bar is absent; no white anal stripe is evident; and there are no dorsal dark marks. Structurally, however, the specimen is typical of the species, and the characteristic white streak from below orbit to rictus oris is present, as well as a faint, broken dorsolateral dark line on rear of abdomen.

Eumeces dugesi Thominot. One specimen (MZFC 6833) was taken 20 July, on the Chula Vista Golf Course in Chapala, the northernmost locality from which the species is now known. It is recorded elsewhere in Jalisco only from 3 mi WSW Mazamitla (about 45 air km S Chapala) and the Nevado of Colima (Dixon, 1969).

Leptotyphlops humilis dugesi (Bocourt). A large specimen (MZFC 6836) from the Canfield villa 19 June, is from the easternmost known locality for the species in Jalisco. The nearest locality of record for the species is Jocotepec, about 35 km west of Chapala, on the shore of Lake Chapala. It is also the largest on record, at 235 mm total length. Dixon et al. (1962) provided the previous record, at 196 mm total length.

Leptodeira splendida bressoni Taylor. A small juvenile (MZFC 6834) was taken 19 June, at the Canfield villa. Only two other localities are recorded for the species in Jalisco: Rancho El Rodeo, Sierra de Ixtlán near San Marcos (Duellman, 1958: 86), and 18.4 mi NW Magdalena (Fouquette and Rossman, 1963: 195). The present record extends the known range of the subspecies eastward in Jalisco about 75 km.

Thamnophis melanogaster canescens (Smith). This taxon is well known in the vicinity of Lake Chapala, and the one specimen obtained is notable primarily because it represents a relatively rare color/pattern variant of a brick red venter and the red color suffused upwards on a progressively darker, patternless dorsum. Only a faint, narrow median ventral dark streak is present, interrupted on most of the posterior part of each ventral scale. There are no subcaudal marks. The specimen (MZFC 6835) was taken 20 July 1994, near the grounds of the Canfield villa, by a cousin of the estate maid who gave it to HWP.

Gregory et al. (1983) noted the occurrence in 117 specimens from Lake Cuitzeo, Michoacán, of red coloration both dorsally and ventrally in about 9% (11), but in none of the latter individuals were there no dorsal light stripes and a ventral dark streak, as in the present specimen. However, Burghardt (pers. com.) has seen and loaned us slides of specimens from Lake Chapala that closely resemble ours. The total red coloration thus occurs in both regions and may well persist at a low frequency throughout the range of the subspecies. Occurrence in other subspecies is unknown.

Acknowledgments

We are much indebted to Arthur J. Canfield III for his generous hospitality on repeated occasions to HWP and his colleagues; to Donald G. Wheeler, Donald W. Sellers, M.D., Professor Robert J. Werth, Dr. Oscar Flores Villela, and Eduardo Fanti Echegoyen (curator of the Herpetario, Zoológico Guadalajara), for their collaboration in herpetological studies in the vicinity of Chapala; to Dr. Gordon M. Burghardt of the University of Tennessee, for the loan of color slides of a reddish *T. m. canescens* and for the benefit of his knowledge of color variation in the species; and to Dr. Douglas A. Rossman for critical counsel.

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1. P.O. Box 2345, Homewood, IL 60430.
2. Department of EPO Biology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0334.
3. Department of Psychology, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309-0345.

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More Herpetological Philately

Dreux J. Watermolen
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

An interesting introduction to herpetological philately was provided by Riemer (1993). Shortly after, Das (1994) compiled a useful inventory of amphibian and reptile stamps. Both authors should be commended for introducing the herpetological community to this exciting hobby. Unfortunately, neither author mentioned American stamps commemorating native amphibians and reptiles, and a number of additional interesting stamps from other countries were not considered. This paper briefly discusses some of these stamps and expands on the inventory provided by Das (1994). Date of issue, face value, and similar information for most of the listed stamps are available from the author.

Stamps from the U.S.A.

An 8-cent stamp depicting *Alligator mississippiensis* was issued 12 June 1971, as part of a block of four stamps called the "Wildlife Conservation Stamps." The other species depicted in the block are the polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) and a trout (*Salmo* sp.).

Scott's Catalogue (1991) depicts a 20-cent U.S. stamp commemorating the 1984 New Orleans World Exposition that includes a frog, other wetland residents, and the caption "freshwater as a source of life." I have not personally examined the stamp and therefore do not know what species is represented.

Terrapene carolina is featured in the 1987 "American Wildlife Stamps," a pane of 50 stamps, which also includes 31 mammals, 13 birds, four insects and the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) in native habitats. The set of stamps is meant to commemorate "the beauty and resiliency of America's wildlife" and "spotlight the crucial need to preserve and protect our natural heritage" (U.S. Postal Service, 1987). The box turtle stamp is located in the lower left corner of the pane.

In addition to the controversial dinosaur stamps discussed by Das (1994), the U.S. Postal Service also issued a series of four stamps to celebrate the centennial of the American Museum of Natural History in 1970, one of which includes *Apatosaurus*, *Stegosaurus* and *Allosaurus* in a Jurassic scene with the words "The Age of Reptiles." The stamps, each with a face

value of 6 cents, were sold in a pane of thirty-two. A block of four 25-cent dinosaur stamps was also issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 1989 (Scott Publishing Co., 1991).

Other Stamps

Other authors have not mentioned stamps depicting the tuatara, *Sphenodon punctatus*, but one of the oldest herpetological stamps features this species. It was issued by New Zealand on 1 May 1935. The design for the issue was obtained by public competition. The stamp which is pictured in Verne, Collins and Company (1954) is printed with brown ink and measures 2 cm by 2.5 cm. The tiny island nation of Jersey located in the English Channel also issued a 9-pence stamp depicting *S. punctatus* in 1971.

Both Das (1994) and Riemer (1993) indicated that numerous countries had issued stamps depicting sea turtles. Ascension, the Bahamas, Christmas Island, the Gilbert Islands, Indonesia, Palau, Panama, Pakistan, the Philippines, Senegal, Spanish Guinea, Surinam and Thailand all issued stamps showing *Chelonia mydas*. Ascension issued booklets with panes of four and six stamps depicting this species. Seychelles issued a series of four *C. mydas* stamps in 1988 (a female emerging from the ocean, a female laying eggs in the sand, offspring hatching, and newly hatched turtles headed towards the ocean). Cuba, Dominica, Surinam, and Thailand issued stamps with *Dermochelys coriacea*. Indonesia issued a souvenir sheet with a swimming *D. coriacea*. A color reproduction of this beautiful stamp is included in the stamp catalog prepared by the Indonesian Stamp Dealers Association (1990). Cuba and Surinam each produced a stamp with *Caretta caretta*, and Kenya, the Ryukyu Islands, the Solomon Islands, Surinam, and Thailand all featured *Eretmochelys imbricata* on stamps. In 1966, Indonesia released a stamp with *E. imbricata* incorrectly inscribed "*Chelonia mydas*, green turtle." Panama, Surinam, and Thailand each issued stamps with *Lepidochelys olivacea*.

The Marshall Islands issued a block of four 25-cent stamps depicting sea turtles in 1990. One featured *C. mydas* hatchlings entering the sea, a second showed an adult of the same

species underwater. The remaining two depict an *Eretmochelys imbricata* hatchling and eggs, and a swimming adult *E. imbricata*. Ascension issued three triangle-shaped stamps featuring *C. mydas*, *Caretta caretta*, and *E. imbricata*. One of the more interesting sea turtle stamps that has been issued was produced by the island nation Kiribati. It is reproduced in Scott's Catalogue (1991) and depicts a large sea turtle (probably *Chelonia mydas*) swimming in the ocean with an island on its carapace and the words "Tabakea supporting Banaba on his back." It was issued as part of a series of four stamps called "Legends" in 1984.

Riemer (1993) included a photograph of a stamp from the Republic of Mali which featured *Geochelone sulcata*. Other stamps which feature tortoises include those from Barbados (*Geochelone carbonaria*), the British Indian Ocean Territory (*G. gigantea*), Montserrat (*G. carbonaria*), Panama (*G. carbonaria*) and Spain (*Testudo graeca*). Additional freshwater turtle stamps include those issued by Hungary (*Emys orbicularis*) and Panama (*Trachemys scripta*). New Caledonia released a cartoon stamp in 1978 which featured "the tortoise and the hare" racing.

Crocodylian stamps have been issued more commonly than Das (1994) recognized. At least 15 additional countries have featured crocodylians on their stamps. These include the Congo People's Republic (*Crocodylus niloticus*), El Salvador (*Crocodylus acutus*), Indonesia (*Crocodylus mindorensis* and *Crocodylus porosus*), Ivory Coast (*Crocodylus niloticus*), Laos (*Crocodylus palustris*), Nepal (*Gavialis gangeticus*), Nigeria (*Crocodylus* sp., probably *niloticus*), Pakistan (*Crocodylus palustris*), Palau (*Crocodylus porosus*), Rio Muni (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), Senegal (*Crocodylus niloticus*), the Solomon Islands (*Crocodylus porosus*), Surinam (*Caiman crocodilus*), Togo (*Crocodylus cataphractus* and *Crocodylus niloticus*) and Zambia (*Crocodylus niloticus*).

In addition, Gambia issued four stamps with *Crocodylus niloticus*, one with a young hatchling, one with an adult carrying young, and two different stamps featuring adults. The Congo People's Republic also issued two stamps with *Osteolaemus tetraspis* and two with *Crocodylus cataphractus*. Das (1994) indicated Bangladesh had issued four stamps depicting feeding, resting, and basking *Gavialis gangeticus*. The country also issued a stamp in July 1984 promoting the Dhaka Zoo which featured a gharial along with a crane (*Grus grus*). The stamp is pictured in Rahman (1988). Botswana issued a 1-cent stamp with a cartoon crocodile in 1970, and Togo issued a stamp in 1971 with a wooden, toy crocodile.

The list of saurian stamps by Das (1994) is fairly comprehensive. A few additions are listed here by family.

Agamidae: Australia (*Physignathus gilberti*), Zaire (*Agama agama*)

Anguidae: Poland (*Anguis fragilis*)

Cordylidae: South Africa (*Gerrhosaurus flavigularis*, *Platysaurus intermedius*, *Cordylus warreni depressus*)

Chamaeleonidae: Congo People's Republic and South Africa (*Chamaeleo dilepis*)

Gekkonidae: Laos (*Eublepharis macularius*), New Caledonia (*Bavayia sauvagii*, *Rhacodactylus leachianus*)

Iguanidae: Montserrat (*Iguana iguana*)

Lacertidae: Iraq (*Lacerta viridis*), Jersey (*L. viridis*), Romania (*L. agilis*), South Africa (*L. rupicola*), Spain (*L. viridis*)

Scincidae: South Africa (*Mabuya quinquetaeniata margaritifera*)

Varanidae: Guinea, Ivory Coast, South Africa, and Togo (*Varanus niloticus*). The only country to feature the giant *V. komodoensis* has been Indonesia.

Additional poisonous snake stamps include those issued by the French Territory of Afars and Issas, now the Djibouti Republic (*Naja nigricollis*), Botswana (*Bitis arietans*), the Congo People's Republic (*B. gabonica*, *Dendroaspis jamesoni*), Gabon (*B. gabonica*, *Dendroaspis jamesoni*), Guinea (*N. nigricollis*), Iraq (*Vipera aspis*), Laos (*N. naja*), Macao (*Bungarus fasciatus*, *N. naja*, *Trimeresurus albolabris*), Mozambique (*B. arietans*, *Dendroaspis polylepis*, *Dispholidus typus*, *N. nigricollis*, *Pelamis platurus*), New Caledonia (*Laticauda colubrina*, *L. laticauda*), Rwanda (*Dendroaspis jamesoni*, *N. nigricollis*), Russia (*Vipera lebetina*), the Solomon Islands (*Laticauda colubrina*), Somalia (*B. arietans*), South Africa (*B. arietans*, *Dendroaspis polylepis*, *N. haje*), Tanzania (*Dendroaspis polylepis*), Togo (*B. arietans*, *N. melanoleuca*) and Zaire (*Dendroaspis jamesoni*, *N. nigricollis*). St. Vincent issued a 1-cent cartoon stamp in 1989 which featured a cobra being charmed by Mickey Mouse dressed as a snake charmer. Scott's Catalogue (1991) indicates that Ascension issued a stamp in 1986 with a rattlesnake. Not having seen the stamp, I cannot speculate on what species is depicted.

Additional countries which have included constrictors on their stamps include the Congo People's Republic (*Python sebae*), Jersey (*Epicrates subflavus*), Laos (*P. reticulatus*), Mexico (*Boa constrictor*), Nigeria (*P. sebae*), Rwanda (*P. sebae*), Senegal (*P. sebae*), South Africa (*P. sebae natalensis*), Togo (*P. sebae*), Venezuela (*Boa constrictor*), and Zaire (*P. regius*). Colubrid snake stamps not previously mentioned include those by the Congo People's Republic (*Dasypeltis scaber*), Gabon (*Boiga blandingi*, *Dasypeltis scaber*), Laos (*Natrix subminiata*), Macao (*Elaphe radiata*), Mongolia (*Taphrometopon lineolatum*), Romania (*Coluber* sp.), South Africa (*Psammophylax tritaeniatus*, *Pseudaspis cana*, *Philothamnus semivariegatus*, *Prosymna sundevallii*, *Mehelya capensis*), and Venezuela (*Drymarchon corais*).

The following countries have issued stamps with amphibians: Barbados (*Bufo marinus*), Cuba (*Hyla insula*), Great Britain (*Bufo calamita*), Jersey (*Rana dalmatina*, *Phyllomedusa* sp.), Mozambique (*Afrixalus fornasinii*, *Bufo regularis*, *Hyperolius marmoratus*, *H. pictus*, *Ptychadena porosissima*, *Rana angolensis*), Poland (*Hyla arborea*, *Triturus alpestris*, *Triturus cristatus*, *Bufo viridis*, *Bombina bombina*, *Salamandra salamandra*, *Bufo calamita*), St. Vincent (*Bufo marinus*), the Solomon Islands (*Bufo marinus*), South Africa (*Rana angolensis*, *Chiromantis xerampelina*, *Leptopelis* sp., *Ptychadena*

anchietae), Spain (*Salamandra salamandra*, *Alytes obstetricans*), Surinam (*Leptodactylus pentadactylus*, *Phyllomedusa hypochondrialis*, *Hyla boans*), and Sweden (*Bufo viridis*).

In the “Second Flora and Fauna Conservation Issue of 1968,” Papua and New Guinea released four stamps with the frogs *Hyla thesaurensis*, *Hyla iris*, *Ceratobatrachus guentheri*, and *Nyctimystes narinosa*. The stamps have a horizontal orientation and measure 3.6×2.6 cm. Franklin (1970) includes reproductions of the stamps, as well as life history notes on each of the frogs. More than 2.5 million of these stamps

were sold during their six months of circulation (Franklin, 1970).

Amphibian stamps listed by Scott’s Catalogue (1991), but which I have not personally examined, include two Fiji stamps (one with a “treefrog” and the other with a “ground frog”) and two Montserrat stamps (with a “mountain chicken frog” and a “treefrog”). Two of my favorite amphibian stamps are a 13-pence stamp from the Isle of Man and a 16-cent stamp from the Bahamas. Both depict children playing leap frog!

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Keeping Reptiles, Smuggling Wildlife, Wildlife Bureaucrats *Smuggled-2*, An Australian Perspective

Raymond T. Hoser
41 Village Avenue
Doncaster, Victoria 3108
Australia

PART 2. QUEENSLAND — BUREAUCRACY BEFORE CONSERVATION

This month I’ll detail the foxtail palm (*Wodyetia bifurcata*) smuggling operation in North Queensland. Following the apprehension of Paul Barbagallo, the brother of State Premier Wayne Goss’s private personal secretary, for allegedly smuggling these plants, there was a significant amount of publicity, in what later became known as the Cape Melville Affair. While foxtail palms are obviously not reptiles, the affair involved the same officials responsible for “Operation Birdman,” centered on snake breeder Bob Buckley, who was featured last month. Like Operation Birdman, the affair involved misleading media releases. The Cape Melville Affair also involved in high-level cover-ups and corruption, extending to the Premier’s own office, State Ministers, the Director of the State Wildlife Department, other members of the Australian Labor Party (ALP), which governed Queensland, and others in positions of power and public trust.

Foxtail Palms

Foxtail palms are restricted to the Cape Melville National Park area in far North Queensland. They occur nowhere else. The plants and seeds are illegally taken from the park and sold both within Australia and overseas. The foxtails within the National Park are illegally harvested on a huge scale. An estimated one million seeds are removed annually. These sell for about \$2.50 per seed. To any outside observer, it would seem to be almost impossible for local rangers not to be able to reduce the harvesting rate. That is of course unless they are involved themselves. For years accusations have been leveled at particular DEH officials whom outsiders and even others within the department claim are actually facilitating the illegal trade. Early allegations of corruption within DEH, made to the Fitzgerald corruption inquiry were not investigated due to “insufficient resources.”

Over the years numerous people have been found illegally

taking small quantities of seeds from the National Park and been convicted of the same. However the trade has largely continued without interruption. It is known that those who collect the seeds are sometimes heavily armed and will shoot at those who attempt to interfere with the operation.

In December 1992, seven men were convicted at Cooktown Magistrates Court of illegally harvesting foxtail seeds. They had been apprehended by police with 10,000 foxtail seeds, marijuana/Indian hemp/pot/dope, high-powered weapons and ammunition. Steven Francis Stonier was the ringleader and was fined \$1000 for "procuring people to interfere with forest products." The other six men, Calvin Burrows, Anthony Castle, William Fenton, Gary Gibson, Stephen McClelland and Nyle Renfrey, all charged with "interfering with forest products" were fined between \$400 and \$750.

Two months earlier 18,000 illegal foxtail seedlings were seized from a Brisbane nursery, while in a separate incident, 30,000 seeds were confiscated and returned to Cape Melville National Park.

In 1993 there were further seizures of seeds.

On November 8, 1993, a pair of rangers were shot at by persons they believed were illegally harvesting foxtail palms. Three days later ranger Pat Shears seized an unattended four-wheel-drive vehicle adjacent to foxtail palm habitat. Within the car were guns, a quantity of marijuana and a chainsaw. It turned out the car had belonged to three men, one of whom was Premier Wayne Goss's private personal secretary, David Barbagallo. It was alleged that David Barbagallo, his brother, Paul Barbagallo, and Gordon Uechtritz had been illegally poaching foxtail palms within the National Park. Subsequently the men were charged under summons with seven charges relating to alleged offenses, including unlicensed weapon, all committed within the National Park.

On April 13, 1994, the deputy leader of the Queensland opposition, Ms Joan Sheldon, told parliament that Premier Goss's men had tried to frustrate the prosecution of Barbagallo. Sheldon accused David Barbagallo and Goss's media advisor, Dennis Atkins, of making false claims about their involvement in the case. Calling Atkins the "government's dirty tricks man," Sheldon said Goss's staff had used "their positions to rort* travel entitlements and have [a] cozy holiday at taxpayer's expense." Sheldon said the time Goss's staff had spent at Starke Station, adjoining Cape Melville National Park, had cost taxpayers more than \$148 a minute, hindered the fight against foxtail palm seed smuggling at Cape Melville and cost National Parks ranger Mr. Pat Shears his job. Mr. Borbridge, the Opposition leader, said the case was "one hell of a cover-up" by Goss and environment minister, Ms Molly Robson. Borbridge indicated he had more information on the case, stating he had "an informed view of just what the substance of the cover-up might be but . . . is happy to see how deep a hole the government is digging itself." Premier Goss countered by saying that Barbagallo and Atkins were "honest" and that "they have committed no offense or wrong-

doing." Goss was shown to wrong in judgment on May 14, when Paul Barbagallo was fined \$800 by a Magistrate over the incident.

The Cape Melville affair, as it became known, made newspaper headlines throughout April 1994 and the rest of the year. The three DEH officers who were meant to be running the investigation, namely Greg Wellard, Mike Chep and Keith Charles Stafford were themselves accused of being corrupt and sabotaging the investigation. These men also ran "Operation Birdman" and series of other bungled operations in North Queensland.

Chep, a former policeman, had been charged with several counts of assault in 1989 and the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) had recommended disciplinary action against him for other matters.

Police Minister Paul Brady confirmed that allegations had been made to the CJC against Chep involving unauthorized removal of files, improper disclosure of information, improper seizure of a firearm, unnecessary arrest and assault at Nobby Beach Surf club along with other offenses. In relation to the Nobby Beach incident, Deputy Police Commissioner Dave Blazzard decided in 1992 to take no action against Chep.

In February 1993, the CJC recommended disciplinary action against Chep but he resigned from the police force before he was to attend a hearing. Chep resigned from the force on May 3, 1993, with full benefits. Two days later he took up his position in DEH. Chep had faced a total of 16 separate assault charges whilst in the police force. Keith Stafford was adversely mentioned (named as corrupt) in the Fitzgerald inquiry report.

By September 1994 a CJC probe had been launched into the matter and the media continued to dig up more dirt.

Prior to the seizure of Barbagallo's car at Cape Melville, DEH District manager Peter Harris had been independently investigating Paul Barbagallo's "somewhat dubious reputation and previous criminal activities, including involvement in a cocaine trafficking charge." Furthermore prior to the Cape Melville incident, Barbagallo was known to possess and sell foxtail palms from his property. He later admitted that he had earlier taken huge quantities of seeds from Cape Melville in 1993.

It was also revealed that a sign advertising foxtail seeds for sale had been seen at a property managed by his brother, Charles Barbagallo, at Kunnanurra, Western Australia, some years prior and again in 1994.

According to Opposition Environment spokesman, Doug Slack, the following happened after ranger Pat Shears seized Barbagallo's car. At the time of the seizure, Pat Shears had no idea who owned the car and he drove it back to Cooktown. Dennis Atkins and David Barbagallo met Shears at Cooktown Police Station two days later. They had been overbearing and sarcastic to Shears in an unsuccessful attempt to get back their vehicle. They also claimed Shears didn't have authority to seize the vehicle (a court later agreed that he did have authority to seize the vehicle).

* CHS editor's note: Australian slang referring to misappropriation of funds.

On the same day, Atkins decided to go over Shears' head and call a friend of his, namely Craig Emerson, the Director General of DEH. Emerson too had a strong involvement in the state ALP, as a would-be candidate for a federal seat.

Emerson then called Greg Wellard where it was apparently agreed to suppress any further investigation into Barbagallo or interfere further with his affairs. According to Peter Harris, Wellard acted on advice from above (Emerson) and took steps that adversely affected the course of the following investigation. Harris believed that had these investigations been allowed to continue unimpeded, further apprehensions of people involved in illegal activities would have materialized. Barbagallo had wanted to meet with another unnamed person at Cape Melville. According to Harris, Wellard directed Pat Shears not to return to the National Park, even though the meeting was described as being "extremely suspicious."

According to Harris, Wellard declared that events at Cape Melville were "top secret," and "highly confidential matter with major security implications," thereby preventing DEH staff from being involved in further developments there. Harris believed that following interference by Wellard, Barbagallo could have returned to the area to harvest foxtail seeds secure in the knowledge that no ranger would be in the area to bust him.

All this was at a time before it became known to the media that Barbagallo had previously illegally taken seeds from Cape Melville.

According to Harris, Wellard attempted to suppress earlier statements he had made in relation to investigations of Barbagallo prior to the seizure of his vehicle. This was done following instructions from Emerson and was part of the general cover-up.

Wellard also terminated Pat Shears' employment with DEH following the incident. He'd been with the department for eight years.

Following an announced CJC inquiry, Mike Chep told Harris not to cooperate fully with their investigations. Chep was according to Harris "at pains to warn me of the dangers to my DEH employment of 'talking too much' about this issue with the CJC, which he described in most uncomplimentary terms." In a letter tendered in Queensland's Parliament, Harris noted "'Overpowering' circumstantial evidence that Paul Barbagallo had been in the process of smuggling foxtail palm seeds. Evidence also indicated a conspiracy involving Mr. Wellard and others to prevent a follow-up investigation."

Explanations by Environment Minister Ms Molly Robson and others in the government for the trip simply didn't seem to hold water. Barbagallo was allegedly the tour guide for the trip which had a stated purpose of finding a suitable landing place for a trip the Premier was supposed to be planning that never eventuated.

You see, should such a trip be mooted, DEH personnel would under normal circumstances be the tour guides. As for ascertaining a suitable landing point, one phone call would

have established that!

The CJC probe itself was also a whitewash. Appointed to head the so-called investigation was Mr. Michael Barnes, a former executive member of the Labor Lawyer's Association. Due to his close links with the Labor Government, itself the subject of the probe a number of people boycotted the inquiry. Gordon Harris and Bill Zingelman, both former policemen were invited to appear before the inquiry, but refused due to the closed (not open to the public) hearings and Barnes's chairmanship. As far back as the Fitzgerald inquiry in the late 1980s, Zingelman had given details of a foxtail racket involving a DEH officer. That particular operation dated back at least as far as 1984. He was told no action would be taken by the inquiry into the matter due to "insufficient resources."

According to Zingelman, there were people in government administration and politicians involved in the racket.

In October 1992, a Brisbane Nursery had 18,000 foxtails impounded by Gavin Ricketts of DEH. The seizure notice on Mr. David Cochrane's Sheldon Park nursery was lifted on January 11, 1993, following him signing an indemnity not to sue the Queensland government for damages over the incident.

The seeds had originally been impounded due to their originating from Cape Melville. It was later alleged that by pursuing the matter, a larger can of worms could have been opened and so Ricketts was forced to drop his action. Foxtail seeds have according to Don Scotts, Executive director of the Queensland Nursery Industry Association, been readily available to nurseries for years, indicating a free trade out of Cape Melville. Only a few trees outside the National Park would yet be large enough to be producing seeds.

On January 1, 1995, I interviewed a man who identified himself as the "Mr. Big" of the foxtail seed smuggling operation. North Queensland seed merchant Mark Overend had been intimately involved in trading foxtail seeds for many years until the Cape Melville affair. He wanted to stress to me that he didn't sell his seeds for very much . . . only about \$1.30 each. The catch was, he was selling them by the tonne! He had become very wealthy in the business and traveled the world in the process selling foxtail seeds all over the place.

Following the media reports of the Cape Melville affair, Overend approached a number of newspapers and the ABC's *Four Corners* program to tell his side of the story. Noting that *Four Corners* had actually filmed his boat and car taking seeds, he was surprised they weren't interested in his story.

According to Overend, he has never actually smuggled a seed. You see he was moving them from the National Park with the permission of local DEH officials, including Chep, Reis, Wellard and others. Where necessary, they were being paid accordingly. Other seed merchants did likewise.

Once outside the National Parks, the seeds appeared to be perfectly legal. As for the huge overseas smuggling of the seeds — well it just wasn't happening. On his legitimately filled out export documents he clearly specified what he was exporting, including the correct scientific name of the palm. Department of Primary Industry (DPI) and Customs officials

read his forms and stamped them with their approval for export. That of course was the scandal and why the media didn't want to know. You see the government itself had made the biggest bungle of all and that was why virtually nobody was getting busted over the trade. That was why nurseries worldwide always had ready access to seeds.

Had the media caught onto what was really going on, then senior bureaucrats in DPI and customs would almost certainly have faced the sack for allowing an illegal export to go on for so many years.

As for the foxtail palms at Cape Melville, they do face long-term extinction. At least that's what Overend thinks. The cause of this won't be seed merchants such as himself, but rather another problem being bred by DEH. Feral pigs! According to Overend, the huge number of pigs roaming the National Park feed on virtually every foxtail seed that hits the ground.

DEH officials are also helping the pigs eradicate the fox-tails. Following the Cape Melville affair, DEH decided to build two air-conditioned huts at Cape Melville for rangers to rest in while watching over the area. While constructing one of the huts in late November 1994, a section of fox-tails was burnt in order to clear a space for the hut. The fire got out of control and wiped out over a third of the palms that were meant to be protected. Not a word appeared in the papers following the incident. One can only guess that the DEH media unit was working on their next "Operation Birdman" story.

New South Wales to Queensland

Peter Hitchcock left his position of Deputy Director, Policy and Wildlife, at NPWS/NSW to go to Queensland and take up a post as boss of the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA). Although this new department was formed to protect wildlife in the north of Queensland, it soon became clear that the real objective was bureaucratic self-preservation and inflated pay packets, (this is documented in detail in a press-clipping to be reproduced in *Smuggled-2*).

Suffice to say that Hitchcock not only ensured himself an inflated pay packet, but lined up his wife for a cushy job in the same department with a similarly inflated pay packet, even though she was not the best qualified person for the job and giving her the job contravened public service guidelines. Furthermore Hitchcock made his department pay vast sums of money (hundreds of thousands of dollars) to personal friends for so-called consultancies which failed to produce any tangible benefit and only provided information already readily available to the department for free!

At the same time all this went on he refused to release a paltry \$20,000 to save the endangered Lake Eacham rainbow-fish (*Melanotaenia eachamensis*) that his department had been entrusted to protect. The species has since become extinct in the wild!

Publicity remains one of the better ways to beat bureaucratic inertia. An article was published in the Autumn 1993

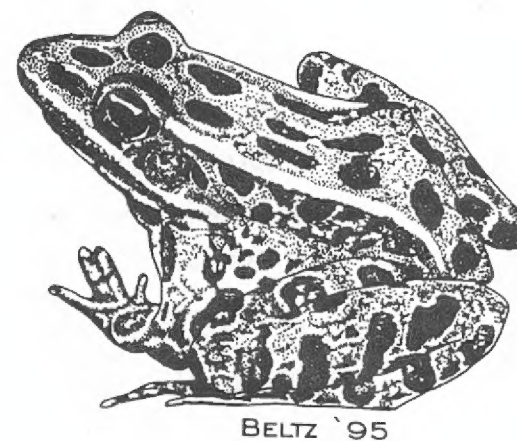
issue of *Wild* magazine, titled "Frog March to Extinction." It noted how the WTMA "is overseeing one of the biggest extinction events in Australia's post-European history," namely the extinction of several species of frogs and that while the WTMA had vast resources available, next to nothing was being done to save them. The author went on to say, "The loss of frogs from Australia's tropical rainforest can be blamed squarely on those responsible for their protection. Bureaucratic inertia cannot be counted as a mitigating factor."

Like most bureaucrats, Hitchcock apparently hates to leave criticisms unanswered, no matter how justified, so he wrote a letter to the magazine, which was published in the Spring 1993 issue. Hitchcock attacked the original article, saying that it was based on "unsourced facts." The unsourced facts happened to be widely published and known information about several endangered and/or newly extinct frog species of the genera *Taudactylus* and *Litoria*. (See my book *Endangered Animals of Australia*, published in 1991, for details and references).

Hitchcock also quoted funding figures for frog-related projects. The figures quoted were in themselves a gross distortion. Firstly, most if not all the funds allegedly allocated for frog-related projects had only been allocated for these projects after and as a result of the original *Wild* article. Secondly, the expenditure figures quoted by Hitchcock related to three-year undertakings and/or commitments not yet enacted and not current annual expenditure, with the real funding remaining a pittance. (Much of this promised funding was also abandoned after the adverse publicity died down!)

Hitchcock was not the first wildlife official in Queensland more interested in bureaucracy than wildlife. Red tape and excessive bureaucracy have long been "policy" in that state.

Next month: *Part 3. South Australia — Problem Officials*



HerPET-POURRI

by Ellin Beltz

What, no kiss?

According to an article from New York *Newsday* [March 8, 1995, unnamed contributor]: “. . . when *Sports Illustrated* cover girl Daniela Pestova returned from her Australian swimsuit shoot and opened up her suitcase, she had a shock. An enormous white frog leapt out from among her dainties. . . . Daniela shrieked in horror, but when her two Jack Russell terriers began to chase the frog around the room, she opened a window and allowed it to escape onto the streets of New York City and down a sewer. Now, Daniela thinks she may have spawned a generation of albino frogs, a species made even larger and uglier by living in the sewers—with all those alligators. . . .”

Here's looking at you

A Reuters release from London describes the work of two doctors at the University Eye Hospital in Tuebingen, Germany, who have discovered why chameleons' eyesight is so acute. As reported in the journal *Nature*, the lizard's eyes are like telephoto camera lenses, except that theirs are both positive and negative (magnifying and reducing). It is the first known instance of eye lenses with a negative power in vertebrates. The lenses are concave and have the thinnest part in the middle. Curiously, the negative lenses provide an image which does not move when the eye is rotated. [*Chicago Tribune*, February 23, 1995, from Stephen Ragsdale]

Galapagos tortoises killed, ecosystem imperiled

Science [February 3, 1995, from Bill Burnett] reports on the ongoing tragedy of the sea cucumber fishermen versus the ecology of the Galapagos Islands. The fishermen declared that “if they did not get what they wanted, blood would flow,” after they captured the Darwin Research Station on the island of Santa Cruz and held researchers and their families hostage on January 3. Troops arrived, hostages were released and the war of words began. The background to this story is that early in 1994 biologists began finding slaughtered tortoises. Some had been hung from trees. Local people blamed the sea cucumber fishermen who were trying to get the government of Ecuador to harvest rich sea beds off the Galapagos in the national park. The government yielded, opened the Galapagos waters to harvesting on October 15 and set a three-month trial period with a limit of 550,000 sea cucumbers. No enforcement mechanism was in place. The Darwin Station estimates that about 6 million sea cucumbers were taken in the first two months. After the Ecuadorian press began covering the story, public criticism began and the government closed the sea cucumber season on December 15, one month short of the original trial season. Three weeks later, armed fishermen stormed the park service office and the research station. The hostages were taken and released as described at the top of this story, and the government reopened the waters to fishing. Under international pressure and fearing the loss of tourism, the government reversed its decision on January 12 and closed the season until October 1995. Ecuador's National Fisheries Institute and the Darwin Foundation are surveying the beds to see what the overall effect of the harvest has been. In the

meantime, locals fear that the sea cucumber fishermen have accidentally released rats and other pests on some Galapagos islands. The final decision on whether to open or close the beds to commercial fishing will be made by the Ecuadorian President, Sixto Duran Ballen. Incidentally, the sea cucumbers are shipped to Japan where they are considered a delicacy.

Annual alligator hunt bags stories

CHS member Ernie Liner lives in a great place for alligator stories: Houma, Louisiana. Ernie and super contributors Bill Burnett and Steven Ragsdale have just about filled the mailbox with alligator and crocodile clippings. These contributors are identified by their initials following the publication/date acknowledgement in this section, not because we're ungrateful—but to save a few trees! Incidentally, it's my fault some of these stories go back to last year. I've been getting ready to paint the house and have found a few things that had gotten buried over the years.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, January 27, 1995, BB: The 1994 legal gator hunt produced 47 percent more harvested alligators (2,302) than the 1993 hunt (1,571). Officials suggest that greater hunter effort in 1994 was prompted by an increase in the price of hides. In 1994, hides sold for \$35 a foot. Alligators were one of the earliest animals protected by the Endangered Species Act and ought to be considered the “poster child” of the recovery effort; their rebound has sometimes been too successful.
- *The Courier*, Houma, LA, December 16, 1995, EL: Hunters killed around 26,500 alligators in the 1994 legal season which had begun on September 3 according to officials at Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In all, 1781 hunters received 27,665 alligator tags for the 30-day season. In previous years, the numbers taken were similar. Officials have noted an increase of 10 percent per year in the number of nests since 1970. Nests are counted by aerial survey. The state had banned alligator hunting in 1962 after a population decline, but the ban was lifted in 1972 under stricter regulations. The 1994 wild harvest program generated about \$9.75 million from the sales of alligator products.
- *Chicago Sun-Times*, February 16, 1995, SR: “Russia's oldest crocodile, Kolya, whose life began in the era of the czars, has died of old age in Yekaterinburg [Sebastopol for those of us with old atlases]. . . .” He arrived in that city “between 1913 and 1915 when he was part of a touring animal show. He already was full-grown, which made him 110 to 115 years old when he died.”
- *Woman's World*, November 15, 1994, SR: “Alice” the alligator taken from her loving Illinois home whose case was overturned by Governor Jim Edgar remains at the Strictly Animals Snake Farm in Texas. It appears her owners, Pearl and Mel Pederson of McHenry County, feel that she is enjoying her new freedom at the attraction and have decided to let her live their permanently. The septuagenarian couple feel they've now provided for their 42-year-old gator as best they can. Pearl said, “She's been through so much trauma. Maybe

it's best she just stay in Texas. Alligators have feelings, too."

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, September 3, 1994, BB: Residents around Lake Griffin are in favor of having their alligators and eating them too. They want small alligators for the "wildlife value," but prefer to let legal hunters take the large ones. Hunters prefer larger alligators because big skins are worth more money.

- *Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, TN, September 11, 1994, BB: (Tom Charlier writing from Sandhill, Mississippi) "Somewhere in its prehistoric, thumb-sized brain an alarm sounded, and with a swipe of its knobby tail and a flurry of bubbles, the 6-foot alligator was gone. . . . Loitering in warm, silty water that fairly boils with schooling fish, alligators have become as much a part of the scenery in Ross Barnett Reservoir as the mats of American lotus and water hyacinths that pinch the channel and the herons and egrets guarding the shore. The reptiles here are more than just kingpins of the food chain. They're sentinels of a dramatic statewide recovery from the not-too-distant times when their populations were plummeting. But prosperity has brought new troubles to Mississippi's alligators. As their numbers rise and as more subdivisions sprout near water, the animals have increasingly come into conflict with humans." The result is that Mississippi state officials are considering instituting a legal hunt of their own. According to the chief of game for the state Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, alligators were "basically gone" by the 1950s. In the 1960s, an amendment to the Lacey Act controlling interstate trade in endangered species, helped to slow the slaughter. In 1973, the animal was added to the Endangered Species Act and officials moved to protect their few remaining gators. Alligator populations are increasing not just by natural means, but also due to a program that introduced thousands of gators from Louisiana into the state. The program was an attempt to control beavers. The beavers are still going strong. The state has been taking 80-100 alligators a year after they have been adjudged nuisances. At first, they relocated the animals, but the press of population is now such that they are considering a legal hunt as a control measure.

- *Times-Picayune*, New Orleans, LA, September 16, 1994, EL: At present it is illegal to kill alligators in Mississippi. Conviction brings a \$1,000 fine and jail time. A wildlife officer said, "The bottom line is that alligators are really not bothering anything. In fact, they do more good than harm. Alligators get rid of snakes and turtles and also alleviate a lot of beaver problems."

- *The Sentinel*, Orlando, FL, September 8, 1994, BB: Population estimates of gators per acre in Lake Griffin, Florida, range from .4 to .6 gators per acre. The raw numbers are from 4,000 to 6,000 gators in a 9,200-acre lake.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, September 6, 1994, BB: Alligators living in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge are exempt from hunting. About 25,000 gators live in the refuge where there's a smorgasbord of prime gator chow also protected from humans: softshell and water turtles, birds, fish, raccoons, deer and hogs. "In the refuge, there's no such thing as a 'nuisance gator'—if someone has a problem with the reptile, it's the person who leaves,

not the gator." Associated Press.

- *The Sentinel*, Orlando, FL, September 8 and 19, 1994, BB: An 8-foot gator dropped dead on the shores of an upscale lakefront home and it took three days for the owner to find anyone who would take the corpse away. It was, as one wag wrote, a "grave matter but nobody seems to dig it." The female resident of the house said, "Hey, I'm 5 feet 2, and I can't lug around an 8-foot dead alligator. We saw him Monday evening, but it was a holiday, so I knew I couldn't get anybody [to help]. My husband was scheduled to go on a business trip Tuesday morning, and I said I'd take care of it. The answers I've gotten are hilarious. I was told at one office to poke a stick at it and drag it into the lake. Another told me to tie a concrete block around it and sink it in the middle of the lake. You'd think there would be someone who takes care of this kind of thing, but there isn't." Finally (after several tongue in cheek newspaper articles from all over the state) Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission officers towed the carcass into the middle of the lake and sank it. Hopefully, it will become turtle chow.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, September 6, 1994, BB: Road work which will expand 20 miles of U.S. 1 from two to four lanes will disturb about 150 acres of wetlands along the corridor between Florida City and southern Key Largo. However, biologists expect that project mitigation will restore about 200 acres of crocodile habitat. The American crocodiles are an endangered species which has not recovered as explosively as the American alligator. There are from 75 to 125 that lay about 30 to 35 nests a year in the Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Key Largo. Others live in unprotected areas in the Keys.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, December 9, 1994, BB: In a story which seems to contradict those previous, it was reported that a Bushnell, Florida, alligator farmer destroyed his breeding gators because of a "three-year drought in the alligator market." Scrammy Hunt said that he has only reduced his herd one other time in the last 30 years.

- *Times-Picayune*, New Orleans, LA, September 6, 1994, EL: O.K., now I'm really confused! This paper reports, "There's nothing sweeter than a brand new baby. Unless maybe it's 1,520 of them. That's how many newly hatched alligators John Price has at his farm near Abita Springs." The farm's owner says he likes country living and that "raising alligators is as easy as pie." Perhaps there's some other factor in Mr. Hunt's decision to destroy his animals. If anyone knows the rest of the story, I'd be glad to run it.

- *The Advocate*, Baton Rouge, LA, November 24, 1994, EL: A new white alligator was caught near Venice on the eastern edge of the state. This is more than 90 miles east of where the first white gators were found. A New Orleans Audubon Zoo spokesperson said this discovery may indicate that the rare coloring wasn't caused by a mutation in the first clutch of eggs and is not restricted to the swamp near Houma where the first white gators were found. The baby gator has blue eyes and a little bit of color on its head. Although it can't be sexed for another few months, zoo officials are already debating whether to rethink their decision not to breed the leucistic gators. The

first batch of 18 white gators are now 7 feet long; two are on outdoor display at Audubon Zoo, one is in the Aquarium of the Americas near the French Quarter, one is on display (or will be on display) at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, and the rest are at an alligator farm run by the company that owns the land where they were found. The spokesperson said that the company has been trying to breed them, but that no fertile eggs have been obtained. [also in the *Courier* and the *Times-Picayune*, same date—good press agent!]

- *The Courier*, Houma, LA, September 1, 1994, EL: Trappers taking legal gators in Louisiana are checking for back foot webbing tags that will identify where the animal was originally tagged. If found, the tag and accompanying data are to be returned to the state. The trappers are made aware of the mark-recapture program when they pick up their hunting permits at Wildlife and Fisheries. The program started on a small-scale in 1988 and went statewide in 1990. Fascinating data have been collected including statistics on one gator which grew 4 feet in a 4-year period. Biologists capture 50 to 100 wild gators a night, tag them and release them in the same place.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, November 23, 1994, BB: A well-loved, 11-foot-long resident of Blue Hole, a lagoon in National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine Key, Florida, is mourned by residents who held a touching, public memorial service for the marshmallow-eating gator known as “Grandpa” to locals. Unfortunately, last year Grandpa also ate a Rottweiler. Wildlife managers feared he was working his way through the vertebrates and might take a child someday, so they snared him and sent him to a state park north of Tampa. Other alligators in the pen attacked Grandpa and he died on November 11.

- *Daily Commercial*, Leesburg, FL, December 11, 1994, BB: Well, it was the Bay of Pigs, now it’s the bay of rare black-and-yellow crocodiles. Perran Ross, a native of Australia and colleagues from the University of Florida are studying the Cuban crocodile, which is also known as Lagarto Criollo. The Zapato Swamp is the only place in the world where the species exists. The Cuban government has been authorized by CITES to trade in the skin of the rare animal since their conservation efforts have been successful. The skins are coming from captive-bred animals. American crocodiles and small caimans from South America were introduced into Cuba many years ago and may have driven the Cuban crocodile from areas of historic occupation. Ross recommended that another population be founded to prevent the loss of the species to a single, stochastic event such as disease or a hurricane.

Cheap trills

Call me weird but I’ve always found toads breeding to be a rather darling event. Now I know I’m not alone. Terry Jaworski, the site manager of the Cedar Bog Nature Preserve in west-central Ohio just got some great press for good old *Bufo americanus*, the American toad. He said, “They set up this trill which attracts other toads. The whole community focuses on the pond. It’s a very melodic thing; sometimes it can be spooky. . . . [When the breeding urge is over] there’s just no chemistry. They just go out and eat bugs.” [*Beacon Journal*, Akron, OH, April 19, 1995, from Jim Zimmerman]

A horrid sound of silence

Once numbering in the thousands in Oasis Valley near Beatty, Nevada, the Amargosa toad now nears extinction. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that biologists are reviewing the toad populations there in an effort to determine if they should try to get an emergency listing for the species. Only 30 toads were counted last year at this remote site near the Amargosa River and springs about 115 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Other species of pond-breeding frogs and toads are in decline in that area as well. The Bureau of Land Management has set aside 490 acres of spring and river habitats as an area of critical environmental concern, but obviously that will do little if acid precipitation, increased ultraviolet radiation, use of fish toxicants, drought, airborne pollution, pesticides, or natural population fluctuations are the cause of the apparent decline. [*Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 29, 1995, from Bob Pierson]

Sex and the single snake!

So screams a press-release headline from Earthwatch. The rest reads, “Come investigate one of the true wonders of the natural world: the amazing mating ritual of the red-sided garter snake. Each spring in central Manitoba, some 50,000 garter snakes emerge after an incredible eight months of hibernation to begin their search for a mate. As many as 100 male snakes could be fighting for the attention of one female. This is one of the largest congregations of animals anywhere on the planet, and certainly the most spectacular mating scenario on earth. Award-winning scientist Dr. Robert Mason needs your help on this important study. . . . Join one of three teams. . . . Your tax-deductible contribution of \$995 supports the research and covers food and lodging expenses. . . . Call Earthwatch, a nonprofit organization supporting field sciences since 1972, at (800) 776-0188, ext. 189.” [from Jim and Kathy Bricker]

And now for a word from the author. . . .

Thanks to all the contributors listed above and to Jack Schoenfelder, Mark T. Witwer, Craig R. Donavin, Allen Salzberg, Steven Coogan, Mark T. Witwer, and P. L. Beltz. Next month: rattlesnake roundups, chemical frogs, space frogs, desert tortoises, and more. The file folder bulges, but don’t stop sending! And please, please, please put the date/source of publication and your name on or attached to each clipping. I’ve gotten some great stuff lately that I can’t use because I don’t know where or when it was published. Also, I’ve been getting some help opening articles lately. If the source and date and contributor’s name are not attached to each clipping what can happen includes us not noticing the slug stuffed down in the envelope or the missing name and just filing it with all the other stuff. A month or so later when I sit down to write, I have no recollection whatsoever of who sent it or where it came from. Perhaps it’s incipient senility or the effects of overwork! In any case, I appreciate each and every one of my contributors and I assure them that my readers do too. My address is: 1647 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-5507. Incidentally, my postman really liked the Namibian postcard sent by Julian Bentley of the British Herpetological Society. So did I. Keep the cards and letters coming, or e-mail text only to: uebeltz@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu. So far, I can respond immediately to all my e-mail.

NEW T L I N E

"I'm so glad to be back in the 'friendly' auditorium," remarked CHS President **Marcia Rybak** as she ushered visitors into the A. Montgomery



Ward Lecture Hall on March 29, 1995. Marcia took the stage to attend to the first order of business. Rumors had been circulating regarding various problems with the Field Museum. Along with **Ron Humbert** and **Mike Dloogatch**, Marcia met with museum officials to explore the possibilities for better cooperation between the museum and the CHS. The officials expressed concerns pertaining to the admittance of live animals into the museum. It was agreed that live animals will not be allowed at CHS meetings without prior consent from the appropriate authorities at the museum. If we cannot obtain such consent, the annual Show & Tell meeting will have to be held elsewhere. Another topic discussed was a long-term booking for the Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall.

Marcia then addressed the issue of selecting a Vice-President following the resignation of **Steve Spitzer**. At the March board meeting, Marcia named **Chris Lechowicz** to fill the vacancy and the board voted to approve this choice. The nomination, however, was subject to ratification by the membership. Marcia defended her choice: "Moving someone up from within the board seemed more appropriate than looking for someone from within the general membership". (This is Chris's first time on the board. He was elected as a Member-at-Large during the past election.) The motion was put to a show of hands. Chris was elected by acclamation. I did, however, wonder if perhaps the general membership, who were unable to attend this meeting, should have had the opportunity to respond. This election then left a vacancy in the Member-at-Large position. Marcia recommended **Nicole Marrello**, who had also been previously approved by the Board. This choice too was ratified by acclamation.

It was then on to committee reports. Chris Lechowicz announced that he had copies of the Illinois legislative laws on the keeping of reptiles. **Char Haguewood**, Adoption Chairperson and Midwest Symposium Coordinator, announced that she was looking for homes for several captive bred juvenile iguanas. Also awaiting adoption were a 9-foot Burmese python, an 8-inch snapping turtle and a 4-foot caiman from Kansas. A "reptile-sitter" was needed for a two-week period in May for water dragons and collared lizards. Switching hats, Char reported that the committee for the Midwest Herp Symposium would meet at the home of Marcia Rybak on April 21 to discuss details. Pre-registration forms were available in the lobby. The forms were color coordinated; orange for dry goods vendors and green for breeders.

Ron Humbert distributed "Guidelines for Exhibitors" and "Guidelines for Vendors" forms for the 2nd Annual CHS Live

Reptile and Amphibian Expo scheduled for May 27-28, 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., at Triton College in River Grove. An Expo committee meeting will be held on Friday, March 31, 1995 at the home of **Jill Horwich**. Volunteer "spellers" will be needed at the Expo to relieve exhibitors. Ron reminded us that selling of animals will be forbidden. Neodesha cages will be provided at cost to exhibitors, upon request and prior notification. He asked that we post flyers in local libraries, community centers, schools, and grocery stores. Ron also encouraged us to attend the CHS Annual Salamander Safari at Palos Forest Preserve on Sunday, April 2, 1995. Besides just plain fun, the outing helps the Cook County Forest Preserve District with a census of salamanders. "Donuts are ordered, permits are on hand, bring your camera and lots of film." He reminded us that no collecting would be allowed. For more fun, he suggested we attend an environmental awareness celebration on June 11, 10 A.M. – 2 P.M., at the Little Red School House in Palos.

Membership Secretary **John Driscoll** announced that current membership stands at 1,751. Director of Sales **Joan Moore** "spotlighted" selected T-shirts at close-out prices and spoke of specials on several books. Assistant Librarian **Jenny Picciola** offered to waive any late fees in return for missing books. Nicole Marrello thanked those who attended the parasitology workshop on March 4, 1995. The next workshop is scheduled for May 7, 1995, at a cost of \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Veterinarian Dr. Steve Barten will be on hand to check reptile fecal samples and to instruct those who attend on how to do the same. Marcia thanked members who attended and displayed at the Chicagoland Family Pet Show in Arlington Heights and introduced Show Chairperson **Sally Hajek**. Sally noted that the "high point of the show season" will be at Oak Forest Hospital on April 19 where CHS members and their animals are encouraged to visit with respiratory dependant, wheelchair-confined residents or day patients. In celebration of Earth Day, on April 23, Volo Bog will host an open house to raise ecological awareness, where former Board member **Stacy Miller** works as a naturalist. An announcement was made to welcome members to Turtle Club meetings held every month on the Sunday before the general meeting at Emmerson Park Fieldhouse, 1 – 3 P.M.

Marcia commented that the large bulletin board used to post announcements for outside organizations mysteriously has disappeared. She announced that a symposium entitled "Natural and Human-Induced Change in Madagascar" would be at the Field Museum June 2-4; at the Minnesota Herpetological Society meeting on April 7, Walter Auffenberg will discuss the dramatic rediscovery of Gray's monitor lizard at the University of Minnesota/St. Paul Campus; and Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning is offering summer research sessions on Beaver Island. This would be an excellent follow-up to Dr. James C. Gillingham's presentation on Beaver Island garter snakes last month.

Following the raffle conducted by **Dave Beamer** and **Mike Ross**, Mike Dloogatch introduced **Don Moll**, of Southwest

Missouri State University. Originally from Peoria, Illinois, Dr. Moll remarked, "It's nice to be back in civilization after years in the Ozark wilderness." The presentation entitled "The Plight of the Pancake Tortoise in Tanzania" began with slides of his 1992 research project in East Africa funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society and the American Museum of Natural History. The pancake tortoise can grow to 6–9 inches long, but remains only 1½ inches tall. It reaches maturity at three years of age. Shell colors vary as do shapes. Age can be determined by rings on the shell. Females typically produce a single egg per clutch only once per year. During the dry season, they spend most of their time in rock crevices and forage in wet seasons. Their diet consists of grass, aloe and broadleaf vegetation found at the base of rocks. Typically found in vertical or horizontal crevices of rocks, their common name comes from their flattened, pancake-like shape. In fact, grant money was awarded for conservation research only after international conservation groups discovered a large shipment of the tortoises, stacked and shipped 10–12 deep in crates, so that those on the bottom had been crushed to death. The dead had been left to decompose, submerged in a pool of blood.

With the help of local guides and the Tanzanian Wildlife Conservation Society, Dr. Moll traveled by Land Rover over dry river beds and mountainous inclines. The goals of the project were to document as many pancake tortoise populations and locations as possible; study the ecology in that area; and determine the effects of commercial collecting on wild populations. He visited various regions including arid grasslands, rocky outcrops, mountain sites and dry desertlike locations. No tortoises were found higher than 1800 meters. Peering into rock crevices, the preferred habitat for the species, could prove dangerous since several other animal species also occupy these crevices, including agama lizards, geckos, plated lizards, spitting cobras, black mambas, puff adders, and occasionally, a swarm of bees. Instead, a snake stick was used to pry the tortoises from between the crevices. "With a hook of the wrist, the tortoise is projected out like a frisbee," explained Dr. Moll. At times, this technique became difficult when the tortoise would inflate its lungs and press its plastron into the rocks, increasing its height and wedging itself tightly in the crevice. Once removed, however, the tortoises were marked

for identification. The study revealed that most pancake tortoises were found in pairs. It was also revealed that fewer adults were found in areas of heavy collecting. Although natives say eggs can be found in crevices as well, Dr. Moll did not find any during this study.

To determine the basis for decline in populations, Dr. Moll studied the ecology of the region. Surprisingly, he found no evidence that tortoises suffer from overgrazing of grasslands by cattle. However, in one area he discovered that the women only of the Hadza tribe eat the pancake tortoise. He was unable to learn why only the women eat the reptile.

The effect of commercial collecting on wild populations was also examined. Since 1981, pancake tortoises have been exported in large numbers from Tanzania. While sale of the tortoises is banned from the pet trade in Kenya, little is done to reinforce this. When the government makes a confiscation, the tortoises often die, or in the event they do survive, are seldom relocated and released in the area where captured. Tanzania, however, does allow hunting of wild game under controlled circumstances. By looking for signs of tampering (e.g., propped up rock slabs), Dr. Moll was able to determine where collecting was unusually heavy. He witnessed young villagers place a rock between the crevices and use it like a car jack. The collected tortoises are sold to middlemen in villages, who pay the collector the equivalent of a nickel per tortoise. These middlemen then wait until the main exporter makes a run into the country, where the tortoises are then sold for 35 cents each. Once purchased, the specimens are stacked in compounds until they can be shipped out by air. Dr. Moll believes prices will rise as the tortoises become more difficult to find.

Dr. Moll hopes that by educating villagers and instituting various programs in the villages where collecting is popular, further depletions on populations of the pancake tortoise may be preventable. He also recommends a moratorium on export.

We stay in touch, so you stay in touch.

Respectfully yours,

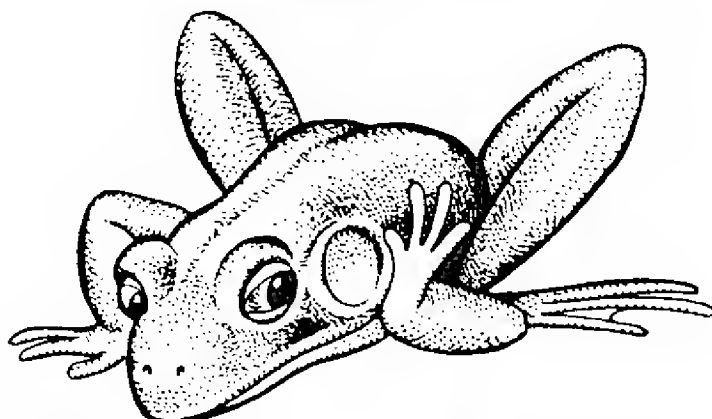
NEWT

Bull. Chicago Herp. Soc. 30(5):101-102, 1994

The Tympanum

This is a response to the letter from Dr. Willard in the February/95 issue of the *Bulletin* and the letter from Dr. Barten in the March/95 issue with regard to the releasing of red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*).

For three years, members of our society have been collecting the unwanted turtles and transporting them to reptile dealers in the U.S. We call this the Red-eared Slider Relocation Project. We have



several drop off points, mainly in the Toronto area, where the unwanted turtles can be disposed of for a fee of \$5. Collected money is used by individuals to pay for pumps, filters, holding tanks or food for these animals until the next shipment is sent. To this date, we have relocated over 2,500 turtles.

We take the turtles out of a market where there is minimal interest for them and put them into a market that still does

have a demand (albeit slight). By doing so, we have decreased the risk of the red-eared slider being released into Canadian waters. They are not native and could be a potential risk to local populations as an exotic pest.

Given sufficient depth of water, red-ears are known to survive southern Ontario's winters and successful reproductions have been observed, one case being the 30 babies captured at the mouth of the Oakville Creek (a suburb of Toronto) in September of 1993.

The Canadian laws do not have a 4" minimum shell length like the U.S. law. Baby turtles can be bought in many pet stores here. We estimate that approximately 30,000 neonate turtles per year are in the Canadian market.

We have spoken to Dr. Willard on one occasion and applaud her efforts for trying to deal with these problem animals. Dr. Barten suggests that releasing them can bring potentially fatal diseases to existing populations of turtles. The classic example

is upper respiratory tract disease (URTD) in Gopher Tortoises. Dr. Willard states in her letter that she wishes these animals to be released in waters where no red-eared sliders are found.

Our fear is the ecological impact on existing flora and fauna and if there are no turtles found in these waters, there must be reasons why.

Studies that have been done by CHS members who can give our society their findings with regards to Red-eared Sliders, would be greatly appreciated.

Anyone interested in the turtle and tortoise trade should write to the Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, and ask for a copy of the November 1994, *Preliminary Report: Live Freshwater Turtle and Tortoise Trade in the United States*.

Carl McCleary, Chairman, Red-eared Slider Relocation Project, Ontario Herpetological Society, P.O. Box 244, Port Credit, Ontario, Canada L5G 4L8

Unofficial Minutes of the CHS Board Meeting, April 7, 1995

The meeting was called to order at 8:26 P.M. Board members Jill Horwich, Mike Ross and Marcia Rybak were absent. In the absence of the President and with the Vice-president expected to be late, John Driscoll was elected chairman pro tem.

Officers' Reports:

The minutes of the March board meeting were read by the members present, corrected and approved. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. Current CHS membership is 1,746.

Committee Reports:

Shows: Bob Bavirsha asked the board permission to use CHS name in the filming of a video. The board approved with the provision that it not be used commercially.

Programs: The Show and Tell meeting is scheduled for June.

Expo: Ron Humbert gave an update. All is going forward. No current problems. Next Expo Committee meeting April 28, at Brian Jones' house.

Director of Sales:

Still in the black. The **CHS Book Service** is open at least half an hour before the general meeting. Avoid the rush! Shop early!

Old Business:

Swap meets: Nicole suggested that CHS book lists be distributed at the swap meets.

Phone: The answering machine will be moved to Brian Jones' house. Call forwarding has been obtained. There should be little break in service. The CAS has voice mail. We may be able to use it.

NHA: Discussion from previous meeting was reopened.

Mike Dloogatch moved, Brian Jones seconded, that the CHS become a "Society Member" of the National Herpetological Alliance. Cost \$60.00. Approved Unanimously.

Expulsion of Member: David Gust has not responded to the letter inviting him to defend his position. The board recommendation will be presented to the general membership at the next general meeting.

Ratification of Officers: At the March general meeting the general membership ratified the board recommendation of Chris Lechowicz for Vice-President and Nicole Marrello for Member-at-Large. Congratulations and Good Luck.

New Business:

Display Module: Bob Bavirsha suggested a repaint of the display module used for shows. The expo committee will look into the idea.

Publicity: John Husar, Sports/outdoor columnist for the *Chicago Tribune* would like a copy of our *Bulletin* monthly. He would like to consider items for inclusion to his column. The board agreed to add Mr. Husar to the mailing list.

Legislative Update: Chris announced that there would be a legislative update in the May *Bulletin*.

Round Table:

Discussion of purchasing a new trailer for general use including Book Service. Ron will check prices.

John Driscoll expressed concern from members re the length of the business portion of the general meeting. Other members concurred.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted for the Secretary,
Jack Schoenfelder

Herpetology 1995

In this column the editorial staff presents short abstracts of herpetological articles we have found of interest. This is not an attempt to summarize all of the research papers being published; it is an attempt to increase the reader's awareness of what herpetologists have been doing and publishing. The editors assume full responsibility for any errors or misleading statements. JCM

VOMERONASAL SYSTEM AND NASOLABIAL GROOVE FUNCTION IN RED-BACKED SALAMANDERS

B. M. Graves [1994, Animal Behavior 47:1216-1219] examined the role of the nasolabial grooves and the vomeronasal system in the red-backed salamander, *Plethodon cinereus*. The author used surgically altered captives in experimental testing to provide the first demonstration that individual *P. cinereus* prefer to occupy self-marked substrates over unmarked substrates; and that nasolabial groove-vomeronasal system chemoreception is required for response to cues that salamanders have left in previously occupied areas. The author also noted that the visual presence of fecal pellets was not sufficient for discrimination when chemical cues could not be detected via the nasolabial groove-vomeronasal system. The salamanders pick up the chemicals by nose-tapping, which brings the rostrum in contact with the substrate. Aqueous materials are then transported along the grooves by capillary action, which delivers the chemicals to the vomeronasal organs for examination.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THE CALIFORNIA TIGER SALAMANDER AT LAGUNITA

S. J. Barry and H. B. Shaffer [1994, J. Herpetology 28(2):159-164] review the history of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) population at Lagunita, a 114-year old reservoir at Stanford University, Santa Clara County, California. The animals apparently colonized the reservoir during the late 19th century, reached a population peak during the first half of the 20th century, and have declined since to near extinction. The apparent causes of this decline are habitat loss due to urbanization, adult salamander mortality from automobiles, loss of larvae during the annual reservoir drainage, and possibly predation by transient fish populations. Recommendations to preserve the population and to allow its size to increase include: (1) construction of a drift fence and tunnel system to divert migrating adults and juveniles beneath the highway; (2) maintenance of water levels through mid-summer to allow most larvae to complete metamorphosis; and (3) excavation of sumps in the lake bed to entrap larvae and keep them from being swept down the lake drain.

A NEW DENDROBATID FROG FROM MARTINIQUE

H. Kaiser et al. [1994, Herpetologica 50(1):23-32] describe *Colostethus chalcopis* from the upper slopes of Montagne Pelée on the herpetologically well known island of Martinique. It is the only known dendrobatid frog endemic to an oceanic island. The frog has a distinctive light-orange venter and adults reach a snout-vent length of about 20 mm. The author discusses the uncertain status of this species within the genus *Colostethus*. The new frog inhabits montane rainforest. Calling peaks occur at dusk and dawn, but it does call during the day as do most dendrobatid frogs.

A NEW SHORT-TOED DWARF GECKO FROM VENEZUELA

A. L. Marquezich and D. C. Taphorn [1994, Herpetologica 50(1):7-14] describe *Lepidoblepharis montecanoensis*, from relic areas of tropical dry forest on the semiarid Paraguaná Peninsula, Estado Falcón, Venezuela. This is the first species of *Lepidoblepharis* reported from Venezuela and the first endemic reptile recorded from the Paraguaná Peninsula. Adults reach 21 mm SVL and have distinctive scalation which separates them from other members of the genus. The authors suggest that the intrusion of goats and cattle into the habitat of this species tends to fragment the forest and leads to the extinction of species that are relatively sedentary, like this gecko.

CAIMAN POPULATIONS PROTECT FISHERIES FROM OVEREXPLOITATION

A. Peres and A. M. Carkeek [1993, Oryx 27(4):225-230] note that rubber tapper communities along the large whitewater rivers of central-western Brazilian Amazonia rely heavily on local fish stocks all year round. This subsistence fishing faces severe competition from commercial fishing boats from urban centers, which in some areas have overfished the economically most important fish species. In the Jarua River and its oxbow lakes, two species of freshwater crocodilians (the black caiman, *Melanosuchus niger*, and *Caiman crocodilus*) indirectly benefit subsistence fishermen by disrupting commercial fishing operations. The gill nets used by commercial fishing boats are often damaged beyond immediate repair by the caimans as they make easy pickings of the catch. This appears to deter over-harvesting of important fish stocks in many sections of the river. In contrast, subsistence fishermen use fishing gear that is rarely damaged by caimans. It would seem that caimans at their present population densities offer protection to local fish stocks by reducing the efficiency and financial viability of commercial fisheries, which would otherwise rapidly reduce fish yields for local rubber tappers.

NEW MADAGASCAR SKINKS

C. J. Raxworthy and R. A. Nussbaum [1993, Herpetologica 49(3):326-341] describe four new species of Madagascan skinks in the genus *Amphiglossus* from rainforest localities in the east, southeast and northwest portions of the island. Most of these species were collected using pitfall traps with drift fences. *Amphiglossus mandokava* was collected at Manongarivo (northwest), *A. minutus* at Manongarivo (northwest) and Ambatovaky (east), *A. anosyensis* from the Anosy Mountains (southeast), and the fourth species, *A. punctatus*, from several localities along the eastern escarpment (southeast and east). *Amphiglossus mandokava* may be another semi-aquatic species, like *A. waterloti* and *A. astrolabi*. *A. punctatus* is the first member of the genus known to be viviparous.

ENDANGERED FROG IS ACID TOLERANT

M. D. Picker et al. [1993, Copeia (4):1072-1081] report that the endangered South African frog *Xenopus gilli* lives and breeds in humic-rich blackwater, where pH may occasionally be as low as 3.0. Its relative, the African clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis* is sympatric with *X. gilli*, but it inhabits neutral to alkaline clear waters and does not display the embryonic tolerance to acidic blackwaters shown by *gilli*. To explain the habitat differences the authors studied the differential survival abilities of jellied and dejellied embryos of these species in both hard clear water and hard blackwater. The authors find that *Xenopus gilli* is one of the most acid tolerant of all amphibians.

WHY WESTERN FENCE LIZARDS FALL FROM TREES

W. H. Schlesinger et al. [1993, Ecology 74(8):2465-2467] record "lizardfall," the number of *Sceloporus occidentalis* that fall to the ground from trees. The study was done at the Hastings Natural History Reservation, Monterey County, California, and is a spinoff from a study of nutrient cycling in a blue oak woodland of coastal California. During a 31-month study period, 198 *S. occidentalis* were found in plastic buckets that had been set out beneath the trees. Each year the lizardfall began in February or March and ended in November. Lizards were caught under 32 of the 40 trees, but the lizardfall was not evenly distributed: 138 buckets never contained lizards, while one bucket caught 18 lizards. Between March and June 1992, 70–100% of the lizards captured were males, but by midsummer the sex ratio of captured lizards was equal. Also, the number of adults caught in the spring was higher, with an increasing proportion of juveniles appearing in July. One hypothesis is that the lizards are jumping off the trees in an effort to escape predators. But several researchers have seen falling lizards with captured prey in their mouths, leading to the theory that lack of surefootedness during the enthusiastic pursuit of canopy insects results in lizardfall in oak woodlands.

HUNGRY VERSUS WELL-FED RATTLESNAKES

W. K. Hayes [1993, Herpetologica 49(3):305-310] examines how hunger influences striking, prey-handling, and venom expenditure by prairie rattlesnakes, *Crotalus v. viridis*, feeding on deer mice, *Peromyscus maniculatus*. Eleven snakes were allowed to strike mice after seven and 28 days of food deprivation (i.e., well fed and hungry conditions respectively) in a repeated measures design. Hungry snakes were somewhat less successful in striking (more missed attempts), but the frequency of multiple bites, site struck, distance of strike, duration of strike, handling of prey (hold versus release), and latency to begin prey relocation (strike-induced chemosensory searching) did not vary between conditions. Hungry snakes expended less venom than well fed snakes, due perhaps to conservation of venom supplies or constraints on venom delivery. Performance of envenomated mice, including distance traveled and time to immobilization and death, did not differ between hungry and well fed snakes. Apparently rattlesnakes do not respond to increased hunger by reducing the risks associated with the release and possible loss of envenomated rodent prey.

SEXUAL INCOMPATIBILITY IN SALAMANDERS

K. Uzendoski and P. Verrell [1993, Animal Behavior 46:267-278] theorize that in those instances where sexually active individuals of closely related sympatric species encounter one another but fail to mate, one expects to find interspecific differences in some components of their mate-recognition systems. This expectation is tested with a detailed laboratory study of two species of plethodontid salamanders found in sympatry in Virginia. Mountain dusky salamanders, *Desmognathus ochrophaeus*, and northern dusky salamanders *D. fuscus fuscus*, are highly sexually incompatible; none of 60 interspecific encounters resulted in insemination, compared with 32 of 60 intraspecific encounters (experiment 1). Detailed analysis of intraspecific courtship encounters revealed qualitative and quantitative differences between these species in aspects of both the content and overall timing of courtship (experiment 2). However, similarly detailed analysis of interspecific encounters failed to reveal any role for behavioral differences in the maintenance of sexual incompatibility: males simply ignored heterospecific females (experiment 3). Species differences in female chemical cues may be of importance in this apparent lack of recognition. Males discriminated against the chemical cues of heterospecific females in Y-maze tests (experiment 4). These results indicate that attention must be paid to all components of mate-recognition systems if the biological basis of sexual incompatibility is to be understood fully. Had only interspecific differences in courtship behavior patterns in this study been sought and found, the erroneous conclusion that these differences are responsible for the maintenance of sexual incompatibility might have been reached.

NATURAL HISTORY OF ANOLIS CYBOTES

T. Forbes et al. [1992, Caribbean J. Science 28:200-27] describe aspects of the natural history of *Anolis cybotes* in a heavily-trafficked hotel courtyard in Barahona, Dominican Republic. Fifty-one lizards were marked and observed in June 1991. Population density was estimated at 367/ha. Males were larger, ranged more widely, and utilized higher perch heights than females. Active thermoregulation was not observed. Lizards used trunks and branches of trees and bushes 71% of the time. Staged interactions between males resulted in aggression and demonstrations of territorial defense. Examination of ingesta from stomachs of 45 lizards indicated that this species is a generalist-opportunist. The nematode *Skrijabinoptera leiocephalorum* is reported for the first time from an anole.

A NEW ELEUTHERODACTYLUS FROM ECUADOR

G. Flores [1993, Herpetologica 49(4):427-434] describes *Eleutherodactylus hamiotae* from the cloud forests of Pichincha Province, Ecuador. It is related to *E. surdus* and *E. alberchi*. The new species inhabits wet cliff faces, a habitat shared with other members of the species group. Because all of the frogs in this species group live in splash zones—spray zones along cloud forest streams—the author points out they are susceptible to "flash extinction" due to changes in their microhabitat brought about by deforestation.

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For sale: rodents and reptiles, Dallas–Ft. Worth Metroplex. J.R.’s Cowtown Critters, 1002 Harrison Avenue, Arlington TX 76011, (817) 460-RATS.

For sale: In stock, Flex-watt and Ultra-therm heating products. **Frozen rodents** always available. Mice: pinks–crawlers, 3/\$1; weanlings, 40¢; subadult, 50¢; adults, 65¢; large adults, 75¢. Rats: small, 85¢–\$1; medium, \$1.25–2.00; large, \$2.25–2.75; jumbo, 3/\$10. Call on quantity discounts [note: discount on orders picked up at CHS meetings]. Live rodents available at higher prices. **Available now:** updated fall newsletter/catalog—many unique/hard-to-find herp husbandry items. It’s also baby snake season! Send business-size SASE for catalog, or call. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M, Serpent City, P.O. Box 657, Island Lake IL 60042, (815) 363-0290.

For sale: Feeder frogs. *Hyla* sp., *Acris* and *Pseudacris* spp., small *Rana* sp., etc., twenty for \$20 postpaid. *Bufo* sp. available at same price. Indicate size preference if necessary. Send money order to: Terry Dillon, 30012 Hubert Jenkins Road, Bogalusa LA 70427.

For sale: GREAT FEEDER INSECTS! King mealworms at great prices (wholesale/retail). Quantity discounts. *Place your order today!* North County Exotics, P.O. Box 4856, Salinas CA 93912-4856, (408) 663-0566, please leave message.

For sale: turtle and tortoise chow, excellent food—1 lb, \$5; 3 lbs, \$10; 5 lbs, \$15 (postage paid). Send cash, check or money order to Herp’s Delight, Dept. C, 20 Ablett Avenue, Whitesboro NY 13492.

For sale: reptile cage disinfectant and deodorant. Kills many types of infectious disease detrimental to herps. \$3.91 for 2 oz (makes 1 gallon). Wholesale and quantity prices available. Make checks payable to Bengal Pets, Inc., 1088 Chapman Road, Jesup GA 31545, (912) 530-6384.

For sale: 3’ “alligator” tongs, \$50; pinky pump, \$40; 12” curved hemostats, \$50; Pearlco ceramic heat elements, 100w and 60w, \$10 each. (703) 524-7323, please leave message. [D.C.]

For sale: Tired of getting bitten while collecting, feeding or maneuvering animals? Try my Whitney tongs—10% discount to herp society members—2’, \$65 each; 2½’, \$66 each; 3’, \$67 each; 3½’, \$68 each; 4’, \$69 each, 5’, \$85 each; 6’, \$90 each. Will ship U.P.S. extra. Send money order or cashier’s check to Don Lunsford, 5661 Walkerton Drive, Cincinnati OH 45238.

For sale: herp books. Two volumes in *Encyclopedia of Australian Animals* series: *Reptiles* by Harald Ehmann and *Frogs* by Michael Tyler, both large format with excellent photos of each species, authoritative, published in cooperation with the Australian Museum in 1992—*Reptiles*, 495 pp., \$90—*Frogs*, 109 pp., \$42. *Graeme Gow’s Complete Guide to Australian Snakes*, 1993 (1989), 171 pp., at least one or two color photos on nearly every page, \$50; *Lizards of Australia* by Stephen Swanson, 1976, 80 pp. plus 119 color photos, \$34. All of these books hardbound, in excellent condition with dust jackets. *Snakes Alive!* by John Cann, 1986, 176 pp., over 100 b&w photos, stories of the old-time Australian snake handlers and antidote sellers, softbound, \$32. Prices postpaid. William R. Turner, 7395 S. Downing Circle West, Littleton CO 80122, (303) 795-5128.

For sale: books. *The Snakes of Malaya* by M. W. F. Tweedie, \$62; *The Snakes of Europe* by J. W. Steward, \$44; *A Field Guide to the Snakes of South Vietnam* by S. Campden-Main, \$14; *The Care of Australian Reptiles in Captivity* by J. Weigel, \$32. All prices include postage. Plains Reptile, P.O. Box 58105 or e-mail at mbjerke@badlands.nodak.edu

For sale: 70 issues of the *Bulletin of the Chicago Herpetological Society*, October 1988 (Vol. 23, No. 10) to October 1994 (Vol. 29, No. 10), no duplicate issues, \$150 postpaid in the U.S.; *Snakes: The Keeper and the Kept* by Kauffeld (1969), very good condition with dust jacket, \$40; *Snakes and Snake Hunting* by Kauffeld (1957), ex-library, good condition, lacks dust jacket, \$30. International Herpetological Symposium on Captive Propagation & Husbandry proceedings: No. 7, \$65; No. 8, \$45; No. 9, \$65; No. 12, \$65; No. 13, \$60; all in excellent condition. Include \$5 shipping for any books or IHS proceedings. Ohio residents add 5¾ % sales tax. The Herp House, 1750 Haines Road, Orwell OH 44076, (216) 685-4615 tel, (216) 685-4572 fax.

For sale: herp books. *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Botswana* by Auerbach (S), \$75; *The Last of the Ruling Reptiles* by Neill, \$80; *Monograph of the Snakes of Japan* by Maki, 3 vols., \$465; *The Cold Blooded Australians* by Schmida, \$60; *Rattlesnakes* by Klauber, 2 vols., 1972 edition, \$300; *A Guide to the Snakes of Uganda* by Pitman, 1974 reprint, \$275. Other titles available and I am always interested in acquiring new titles. Make check or money order to Keith Neitman, 11415 Longbrook, Houston TX 77099.

For sale: collection of 120 different outdated antivenom/snakebite kits from all over the world, \$600. Also, collector’s item—snake catching box made and used by Carl Kauffeld. This is the box Carl used on his collecting trips to South Carolina, 30”l x 20”h x 12”w, three compartments, top opens and two side compartments. Box was never cleaned out and still has (unsoiled) *Staten Island Sunday Advance* newspapers dated April 17, 1977. See book *Snakes and Snake Hunting* for picture of box, \$500. Steve, (516) 957-3624. [NY]

Advertisements (cont'd)

For sale: set of five posters first published by Army Air Forces Tactical Center for easy identification and habits of venomous snakes of the world, \$9 postpaid; *Field Guide to the Snakes of South Vietnam* by Simon Campden Main, \$10 postpaid; *Batrachia of North America* by E. D. Cope, \$16 postpaid; *Laboratory Anatomy of the Iguana* by J. C. Oldham and H. M. Smith, \$17 postpaid; *Time of the Turtle* by J. Rudloe, \$5 postpaid; *Atlas of Amphibians and Reptiles of New Zealand* by C. P. Pickard and D. R. Towns, \$18 postpaid. Catalog of over 4000 herpetological titles sent free upon request. Herpetological Search Service & Exchange, 117 E. Santa Barbara Road, Lindenhurst NY 11757, (516) 957-3624.

For sale: large selection of captive born reptiles and amphibians, books and supplies. Send S.A.S. business-size envelope for complimentary price list or \$5 for a 1 year subscription (bi-monthly), to Twin Cities Reptiles, 540 Winnetka Avenue North, Golden Valley MN 55427, (612) 593-0298.

For sale: homemade reptile tank, 6' × 4' × 3', on wheels, acrylic front and back, fiberglass-lined walls, ceiling mounted Vita-lite and heat lamp, furnished with wood logs and stainless steel bowl, outside stained and finished, large opening in back for easy cleaning, \$200. Laura, (815) 436-7577

For sale: 6' × 4' × 2' cage, 30w fluorescent fixture, Vitalite, Pearlco ceramic heaters, Flexwatt heat tape, \$200 o.b.o. David Wolff, (815) 758-7275.

For sale: three stackable wooden reptile cages (36" × 18" × 18"), sliding glass doors, professionally made, will separate, \$160 for all three; painted wooden hide boxes, medium and large, \$3; 38-gallon aquarium, seam leak, no cracks, with screen top, \$30; 30" female coastal rosy boa, \$100; 18" male and female rosy boas, \$90 each. Marc, (708) 597-6172 weekday evenings.

For sale: What are vittikins? Vittikins are bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*) × Rankin's dragon (*P. brevis*) hybrids. They have all the personality, charm and hardiness of the bearded dragons at half the size. Just \$75 each. Marcia Rybak, (708) 735-8205.

For sale: 3' Nile monitor, \$50 or reasonable offer to good home. Leave message for Steve, (708) 342-8576.

For sale: bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*), high contrast patterns and exceptional colors, \$75 each. Also c.b. geckos—velvet geckos (*Oedura monilis*), \$125 each; giant frog-eye geckos (*Teratoscincus keyserlingi*), \$95 each. Philip A. Tremper, Jr., P.O. Box 264, Clintonville WI 54929, (715) 823-5873.

For sale: rhinoceros iguanas; Cuban iguanas; green iguanas; *Geochelone sulcata*; *G. elephantopus* (Florida sales only). D. J. or Sam, (305) 680-8492. [FL]

For sale: 2' Asian water monitor, *Varanus salvator*, \$120; one male and one female brindle black rats, adults, \$100/pair; adult male *thayeri*, milksnake phase, \$115. Nicole, (708) 430-3283.

For sale: female c.b. '94 Indonesian bluetongue skink, \$95; pair of Mexican rosy boas (*Lichanura t. trivirgata*), c.b. '93, \$180. Call (708) 361-5835.

For sale: 3' male *Varanus indicus* (Solomon Islands), four-year captive, \$125; adult male plumed basilisk, \$65; c.b. leopard geckos, \$25; c.b. *Paroedura pictus*, \$35; c.b. fat-tail geckos, \$40; two male '94 Honduran milksnakes, \$100 each; female '93 Arizona mountain kingsnake, \$150. Bryan Elwood, (704) 665-7185 evenings. [NC]

For sale: for Chicago area pickup only—1993 c.b. anerythristic (no red) corn snakes, both light and dark phases, all feeding like gangbusters on dead fuzzy mice and chubby rats, \$30 each; one 1993 c.b. black and yellow banded female California kingsnake, finally eating dead chubby mice like a champ, \$40; 22" savannah monitor, feeding well on small dead rodents and beef heart, \$50. Call Janice 10 A.M. – 10 P.M., (708) 484-7807 and leave a message if I can't pick up.

For sale: Attention snake enthusiasts! **Plains Reptile** is now taking orders for 1995 hatchlings. Quality snakes at attractive prices—reserve yours today. Send stamp for free price list. Plains Reptile, P.O. Box 5818, Fargo ND 58105.

For sale: one male and one female c.b. '93 *Eryx conicus*, \$125 each or \$215/pair; six c.b. late '94 Standing's day geckos, *Phelsuma standingi*, \$45 each; eight c.b. '95 juvenile *Phelsuma madagascariensis grandis*, \$35 each; four c.b. '95 *P. m. kochi*, \$30 each. Expected between June and August: c.b. northern blue-tongue skinks, *Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*, excellent coloration, \$175–200 each; leopard geckos, \$25 each; brown phase African house snakes, *Lamprophis fuliginosus*, \$25 each; Sinaloan milksnakes, \$65 each. Jim, P.O. Box 2922, Carbondale IL 62902, (618) 985-6220.

For sale: c.b. 3/95 Australian water pythons, *Liasis fuscus*, from highly iridescent, olive-green with bright yellow belly parents, \$250 each; baby common boas, \$75–85 each; two adult male coastal plains milksnakes, \$95 each; adult female northern pine snake, \$90; adult female patternless Florida pine, \$100; adult pair, albino San Diego gopher snakes, \$180/pair. Russ, (409) 594-5554.

For sale: '95 captive produced jungle carpet pythons, *Morelia spilota cheynei*, parents from separate bloodlines, \$750/pair. Paul Anderson, (307) 382-4093 evenings. [WY]

For sale: expected '95—deposits accepted. Pythons—blackheads, womas, green trees, diamonds, jungle carpets, rings, bloods (red and black) and Children's. Boas—emeralds, Hog Islands, Madagascan tree (*Sanzinia*), Bolivian redtails, Argentines, Brazilian rainbows, Dumeril's and sand boas. Tortoises—Aldabras (3"–24"), Hermann's, marginateds, redfoots, leopards and others. For price list send a one-time fee of \$3, which includes a '95 list (and *all* future lists) and color photos. Dick Goergen, P.O. Box 225, Alden NY 14001, (716) 681-4518.

For sale: 1995 projected c.b. offspring. Locality matched rosy boas, locality and generic *alterna*, exceptional "*brooksi*" and "*goini*," Durango Mountain kings, blonde-phase "subocs," striped and albino striped *guttata*, desert-phase and Long Beach Cal kings, *nigritus*, *campbelli*, albino *calligaster*, albino and hetero Burmese. Send stamp for price list and more info to: S.E.R.P., P.O. Box 1321, Palmetto GA 30268, (404) 251-4518.

For sale: one male and one female adult desert sand boas, *Eryx miliaris*, \$125; one male and two female adult Tatar sand boas, *E. tataricus vittatus*, (male has old spinal injury), \$135; juvenile ('94) Dumeril's boas, \$300; juvenile ('94) olive pythons, *Morelia o. olivaceus*, \$1000; 10' adult male olive python, \$1200. All adult snakes are long-term captives. David Sorensen, 4100 N. 78th Street, Milwaukee WI 53222, (414) 463-6164.

For sale: one male and one female 4-year-old Argentine boas, *Boa constrictor occidentalis*, 6–7' female from LA Zoo stock, 5' + male from wild caught parents, must sell/need space/make offer. Also two male and three female *Eryx tataricus*, acclimated imports (1 year +), with locality data, \$375/group; two male and two female *Eryx miliaris*, acclimated imports (1 year +), with locality data, \$300/group. Giovanni Fagioli, (206) 861-7964. [WA]

For sale: one male and two female albino labyrinth Burmese, c.b. '94, gorgeous, growing fast, \$1500 each or \$3750/group; two female hetero albino labyrinth Burmese, c.b. '94, \$750 each or \$1250 both. All are Mark Bell stock. Also one male and one female Argentine boas, c.b. '90, 6', very nice, \$1500/pair; one male and one female Sumatran blood pythons, c.b. '94, nice color, unrelated, \$500/pair; two male Kenyan sand boas, c.b. '91, excess breeders, \$65 each. Call (619) 287-3937. [San Diego]

For sale: one male and one female c.b. 8/10/93 emerald tree boas, \$1200/pair; one male and two female c.h. '92 albino northern pines (proven breeders), \$500/trio. Joe Taffis, (717) 773-2610. [PA]

For sale: quality reptiles at great prices. Female Colombian rainbow boa, c.b. '91, breeder, \$150; one male c.b. '94 and one female c.b. '91 Colombian rainbow boas, \$235/pair; 5' male Brazilian rainbow boa, c.b. '92, \$290; female hetero striped corn, c.h. '89, breeder, \$65; and many more. Send stamp for 1995 list. Plains Reptile, P.O. Box 5818, Fargo ND 58105 or e-mail at mjberke@badlands.nodak.edu for lists or questions.

For sale: **Brazilian rainbow boas** expected from beautiful orange parents, \$250. Send stamp for info/photo. Scott Schuett, 1820 Bigelow, Toledo OH 43613.

Advertisements (cont'd)

For sale: captive-bred snakes. Blood pythons, Burmese pythons, Kenyan sand boas, bull snakes. Will deliver in Chicago metro area or ship from O'Hare Airport. Joan Moore, (312) 528-4631.

Free: Sample copy of the Tortoise Shell Newsletter. Send name and address to Tortoise Shell, P.O. Box 8181, Flint MI 48501.

Free!!! NATION'S LARGEST CATALOG of reptile and amphibian supplies at the guaranteed lowest prices. Big Apple Herpetological's 48-page catalog includes incubators, cages, heating, digital thermostats & thermometers, lighting, cage accessories, husbandry & feeding/dosing equipment, medications, vitamins, foods, herp shirts and books. We also sell a large variety of reptiles. For FREE catalogs and product orders: (800) 666-6672. For product information: (212) 799-9065. For reptile information and sales: (212) 799-5231. Visa, MasterCard, Discover accepted. BIG APPLE HERPETOLOGICAL, P.O. Box 632, New York NY 10023.

Pet-sitting service: Complete in-home pet and plant care, specializing in reptiles and other unique pets. Dogs and cats welcome with open arms, midday dog walking. Experienced and dependable service by devoted animal lovers, serving Chicago and suburbs, reasonable prices, fully insured and bonded. Ask about our habitat consultation and custom-made cages. Exotics & More, (312) 728-5457 or page us at (708) 750-3688.

Software: **TRACS™**—Total Reptile and Amphibian Control System. The most complete database and reporting solution for automating your breeding records. Perfect for hobbyists, commercial breeders and institutions. Only \$129. IBM PCs and compatibles. For more information or ordering contact Marcia Rybak at Leapin' Lizards, 736 N. Western Avenue, #315, Lake Forest IL 60045, (708) 735-8205 phone or (708) 735-8206 fax.

Tours: Five-day South Carolina herp and fossil tours, April–November 1995. Mini expeditions in search of 30-million-year-old turtles and crocodilians; living reptile hunts (vipers, king and rat snakes, turtles, anoles, broadhead and five-lined skinks, treefrogs and other amphibians), exotic reptile shopping and camping in a black water swamp forest. Finest Charleston hotels beginning and end of each tour. Twelve people per tour. Family plans available. \$489. For reservations call Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

Tours: Custom-designed tours to Costa Rica, Panama, Belize and Guatemala. Expeditions to fit the specialized needs of herpers, photographers, educators, writers, professionals in search of data, and travelers just interested in visiting these countries (with or without their families). From \$649. Steve Faust, (800) 894-TOUR.

Wanted: sand boas (*Eryx elegans*, *E. jayakari*, banded *E. johnei*, *E. muelleri* and *E. somalicus*). David Sorensen, 4100 N. 78th Street, Milwaukee WI 53222, (414) 463-6164.

Wanted: female pale milksnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum multistriata*); adult female bearded dragon (*Pogona vitticeps*). Henry Cohen, 24 St. Johns Place, Buffalo NY 14201, (716) 881-6724.

Wanted: *Uromastix acanthinurus*, *U. bentii* and *U. ocellatus*. Randy Gray, (817) 613-1242 evenings Central Time. [TX]

Wanted: brilliant yellow *Lampropeltis getula* "brooksi", *L. g. sticticeps*, 85% yellow or more banana *L. g. californiae*, 60% white or more desert phase *L. g. californiae*, high yellow examples of *L. g. holbrooki*, red/orange and black *L. g. goini*, and black & white specimens of *L. g. goini* such as the animal pictured on plate 590 in the Audubon Society field guide. Will pay cash or trade my quality *Lampropeltis getula* ssp. hatchlings for the animals I want. Kirk Setser, 414 Wickham Road, Manhattan KS 66502, (913) 537-9449.

Wanted: styrofoam boxes, any size or shape so long as they're not flimsy, preferably with cardboard liners, willing to pay from \$2 to \$5. Bring to CHS meetings. Scott J. Michaels, D.V.M., Serpent City, (815) 363-0290.

Not Wanted in May: styrofoam packing "peanuts." The Book Service received so many at the April meeting that it took two vehicles to haul them away. Thanks to everyone who helps out with this.

Line ads in this publication are run free for CHS members — \$2 per line for nonmembers. Any ad may be refused at the discretion of the Editor. Submit ads to: Michael Dloogatch, 6048 N. Lawndale Avenue, Chicago IL 60659, (312) 588-0728 evening telephone or (312) 782-2868 fax.



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News and Announcements

DONATIONS TO THE MARCH 29 RAFFLE

The following is a listing of those individuals and businesses who generously donated items for our monthly raffle at the March 29 meeting. The donated items are shown in parentheses.

Ghann's Cricket Farm (cricket food); Reptile News Press (*Guide to the Reptile Body*, Safe Soap, monitor mug); Tetra Terra fauna (Sizzle Stone, snake poster); Valentine Equipment (thermometer); ZooMed (turtle and tortoise food); Rep-Cal (Rep-Cal); Advanced Vivarium Systems (*The General Care and Maintenance of Savannah Monitors*); Fancy Publications (subscription to *Reptiles*); Brian Jones (*Vivarium* magazines, terrarium backdrops, iguana book); Marcia Rybak (snake pin and earrings); Fluker's Cricket Farm (Repta-sun bulb); Kraig Adler-SSAR (color plates); Grubco (cricket gift certificate); Terrarium Art (rock pool); Trooper Walsh (Komodo dragon photo); Sally Hajek (hand towels); Lori King-Nava (silver-plated lizard bottle opener); Ron Humbert (Stebbins print, salamander stump, snake bandanna); anonymous (indoor turtle pen).

WHITE ALLIGATOR SPECIAL EXHIBIT OPENS MAY 21 AT SHEDD AQUARIUM

"Blue-eyed Cajun Beauty Swamps Chicago" reads the headline on the press release. This summer the Shedd Aquarium features a new special exhibit, "White Alligator: Secret of the Swamp," May 21 – September 13. Along a wooden boardwalk you can discover not only a white alligator, but a juvenile alligator and crocodile, corn snakes, hidden animals in the marshy swamp, and trees and plants native to Louisiana wetlands. The exhibit takes a close look at the rare white alligator, the importance of camouflage and coloration in animals, the crucial role of alligators in the health of wetlands and how the American alligator was saved from extinction by the Endangered Species Act.

The white alligator comes to Chicago courtesy of the Audubon Park and Zoological Garden in New Orleans, Louisiana. The exhibit is sponsored by Tetra Pak, Inc., with transportation provided by United Airlines. The exhibit is free with Oceanarium admission — \$8 for adults, \$6 for children ages 3–11, free for children 2 and under. The Oceanarium is half price on Thursdays (Aquarium only is free). Visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance through Ticketmaster charge-by-phone at (312) 559-0200. For more information, please call Shedd Aquarium at (312) 939-2348.

1995 MIDWEST HERPETOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the
Chicago Herpetological Society

October 20–22, 1995

**Clarion Hotel O'Hare • 6810 N. Mannheim Road • Rosemont, Illinois
(708) 297-8464**

The Clarion has reserved a block of rooms at reduced rates for Midwest Herpetological Conference registrants. Room rates per night are: single person, \$65; two or more persons, \$75. You should make it clear that you are attending the conference and want these special rates.

- ◆ **Friday night Breeder's Exposition (sales of captive-bred animals only)**
- ◆ **Friday night Reception**
- ◆ **Saturday night Banquet and Auction**
- ◆ **Saturday speakers: Walter Auffenberg; Sandra Barnett; Stephen Barten, DVM; Michael Corn; Carl Ernst; Gary Fogel; Neil Ford; and more**

Save the dates and watch the *Bulletin* for registration information when it becomes available

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Chicago Herpetological Society will be held at 7:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 31, at the Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, in Chicago. Our speaker will be **Al Baldogo**, a private breeder who has recently traveled to Indonesian New Guinea.

Come early for the best buys at the **CHS Shop** in May. We'll be open by 7 P.M. to show you new books and T-shirts.

Our annual **Show & Tell** meeting is planned for June 28. All members are encouraged to bring a favorite animal and a cage or container in which to display it. Also, any members so inclined are welcome to come up on stage and tell us something about the animals they have brought.

We are required to use the entrance on the west side of the museum. We have permission to use the staff parking lot to the west of the museum. Entrance to this lot is from McFetridge Drive, the wide street just to the south, between the museum and Soldier Field. There is also free parking available in the lot to the north of the museum. The #146 CTA bus goes directly to the museum. Unfortunately, it does not operate after 9:00 P.M. However, after the program anyone needing a ride to a CTA stop will have no trouble finding one—just ask any board member.

Turtle Club

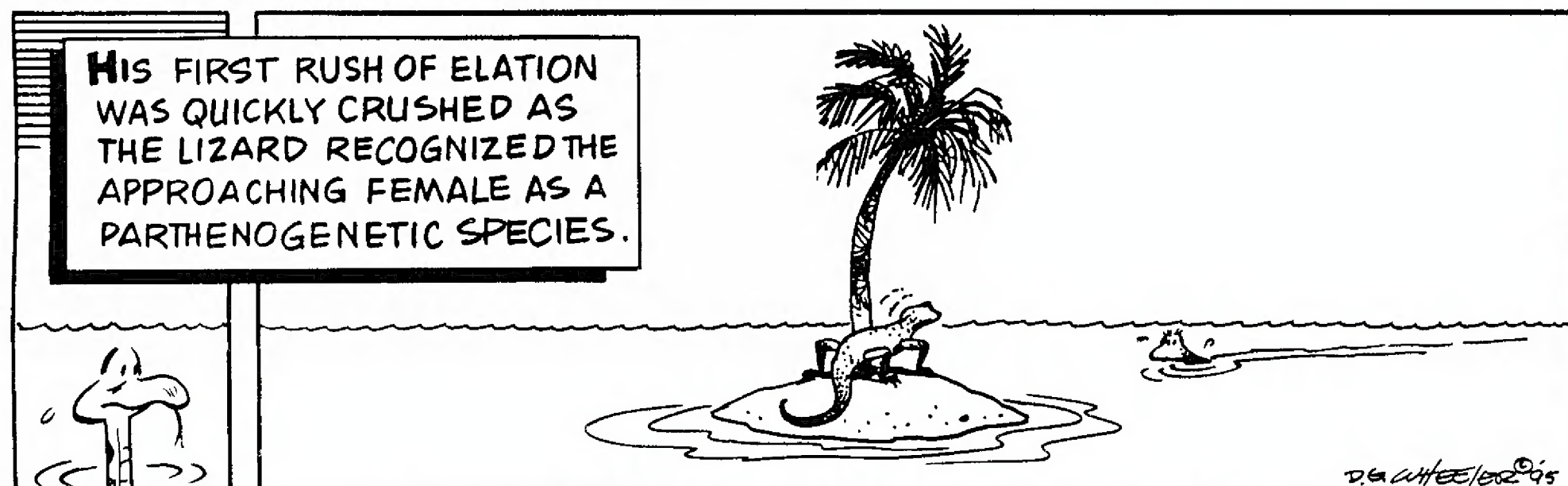
There will be no Turtle Club meeting in May because of the CHS Expo (see below). Attend the Expo instead.

CHS LIVE REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN EXPO AT TRITON COLLEGE, MAY 27-28

The Chicago Herpetological Society's second annual Live Reptile and Amphibian Expo will take place May 27-28, 10 A.M. – 5 P.M., at the Robert Collins Center of Triton College, 2000 Fifth Avenue, River Grove IL. This extraordinary show features live animal exhibits, educational displays, and sales of animal care products, books posters and T-shirts. **There will be no sales of live animals.** It's not too late! If you haven't completed an Exhibitor's Application to show your herps in this year's show, you can sign up by calling Ron Humbert at (708) 620-7377. Even if you don't want to exhibit any animals, you can still participate. We need volunteers to help with the photo booth and to provide temporary relief for the exhibitors. Some of you may feel that your reptiles or amphibians are not exceptional enough to bring to the Expo. This is never the case. Several different examples of one species can serve to show the variability within a single species. Examples of this are the many varieties seen with corn snakes and iguanas. Also common local species such as garter snakes or American toads are of great interest to the general public and can make a wonderful display.

The success or failure of the Expo rests with CHS members. We have a great opportunity here to educate the public. This is our chance to dispel the myths and fears held by so many people regarding these creatures for which we have such an affinity. We can promote the CHS and our avocation.

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